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Dear friends,

You will recall that last month I wrote that we were looking to have copies of the Tower from previous years bound. Some Clergy have seen that this had happened in the past, some have not. The result is that we have a scattering of years bound, some years not bound and some completely missing. This is very sad, and a loss to present and future historians of the village. Let me give you a flavour of the magazines we are trying to save for posterity.

July 1902, Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Magazine.

The news of the cessation of hostilities in South Africa was heard with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction. Authentic news that peace had been signed reached Ingatestone as the people were coming out of church in the evening of Sunday 1st of June. The flag was at once hoisted, and as soon as the ringers could be collected, the bells began to ring out a merry peal, thus giving the first intimation of the joyous news to many people living at a distance. On the following day the streets were gaily decorated, and in the evening a public meeting was held in the Market Place, when stirring addresses were delivered by Mr. Conybeare, Col. Wood and Mr. Coverdale. Later on there was a torchlight procession and an impromptu bonfire. On Saturday, 8th of June, Thanksgiving services were held at both Ingatestone and Fryerning Churches, and were of a very bright and hearty character. In accordance with the suggestion of the Archbishops, the offertories, which amounted at Ingatestone to £6 1s., and Fryerning to £5 8s 1 ½ d were sent to the Commander in Chief of the various charities connected with the War.

This comes from the only surviving copy of that magazine, which also covers the planned and then postponed celebrations for the Coronation. The long term plan is for the copies of the magazine all to be bound and then kept in an area of the church building dedicated to the history of the village. But firstly, they all need to be bound and some will need to be copied. The magazine in front of me is both discoloured and frail. Bound copies will be £30 and I would urge you, if you are at all interested in the history of the village and think that people in the future should also be interested, to be in contact.

The extract given and that alluded to from the July 1902 magazine demonstrate clearly that the churches have always been at the heart of the villages and the natural place for people to gather together for significant occasions, as well as regular worship. I have been delighted to co-operate with members of the Historical Society and the Rotary Club in order to provide a fitting war memorial for all those lost in the two major conflicts of the 20th century. Great research needed to be undertaken in the Churches, the magazine and elsewhere to come up with a definitive list covering Ingatestone and Fryerning. No such list was readily available. Now one exists and plans have been drawn for a memorial, it is clearly fitting that it should be placed within the historic heart of the village, in a prominent position. This will be a fitting tribute and reminder to present and future generations of the ultimate sacrifice made by a disturbingly large number of young men from a small community.

Within the East Window supplement in the centre of this month's magazine, is information about this year's Ingatestone lectures. These, a series of three lectures on the first three Mondays of July, began in 2002. This year the theme relates to the media, something that affects all of our lives. How does the media relate to religious and Christian issues? What can Christians do to influence the media and the coverage it gives? On July 5th Cannon John Howden, who used to work for BBC World Service, will give an over-view. Chris Bard, BBC Essex Religious Affairs Correspondent and presenter of the Sunday Morning Breakfast show will be with us on July 12th. Olave Snelling, presenter from Premier Radio, the Christian London-based station, and with a long and varied media career, will be with us on 19th. These promise to be very stimulating evenings, with 45 minutes input and then plenty of time for questions from the audience. Do please book 8pm in your diary for these lectures in Ingatestone Parish Church. Not only will they give you an insight into the media, they will provide you with pointers on how you can influence the situation.

July 4th was the occasion of Sue's ordination at Chelmsford Cathedral. We have been very fortunate to have her with us on placement for six months while she studied on the North Thames Ministerial Training Course. On July 11th she will be preaching in the main morning services at both Fryerning and Ingatestone. I am sure you will wish to come and support her as she begins her new role in our communities. There will also be a barbecue to welcome her. Sue will be engaged in ministry two days a week as well as three Sundays each month.
Yours in Christ, *Patrick*.

