

The Revd John Alfred Thurmer

John Thurmer, born 31 December 1925, died Sunday 25 January 2015, was Canon Emeritus of Exeter Cathedral and Honorary Assistant Priest of the Parish of St David's with St Michael & All Angels, Exeter.

John was at school in Essex (Witham and Chelmsford). He was called up into the army in 1944; in the Royal Engineers his official army trade was Railway Clerk CIII. He was posted to the Middle East (Egypt and Palestine) and spent two years in Jerusalem, where he narrowly escaped terrorist bombing.

After three years at Oxford (Oriental College) and two years at Theological College, he was ordained and served a three year curacy in the modern Newham (outer east London). He lectured at a Theological college for nine years, and came to Exeter in 1964 to be the first Lazenby Chaplain to the University, with some part-time teaching. From 1973 to 1991 he was a residentiary Canon of Exeter Cathedral.

When he retired from the Cathedral, he acquired a house in the parish of St David with St Michael & All Angels. The Vicar left at Easter 1991 and the Archdeacon of Exeter asked him to help the non-stipendiary curate, Father Peter Lee, with parish work during the interregnum. The new Vicar, John Henton, and his successor, Tom Honey, asked him to continue as an honorary assistant priest, and as such he served both churches and congregations for 24 years.

Canon John wrote various articles, reviews and obituaries, and four short books, two of which are still available. A life-long interest of his was the work of Dorothy L. Sayers, who wrote popular detective novels in the 1920's and 1930's and whom he knew (or knew of) at Witham, Essex. His books published by the Dorothy L. Sayers Society are *Reluctant Evangelist* and *A Detection of the Trinity*.

John Thurmer was deeply loved at St Michael's, Mount Dinham, for his wit and wisdom, his pastoral interest in all, and his lucid and entertaining preaching founded in a deep knowledge of theology and history, lightly worn. Within the church's website, his liturgical knowledge is enshrined in the St Michael's Consuetudinary, and his precision of thought in the Glossary.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

