

RITA'S RING

Among the many items in the terrier (inventory) of Holy Trinity is a gold wedding ring. Nobody knows the true story, but we have published two fictional accounts of its origins, one by Chris Pexton (May 2013, page 11), and one by Christine Fallows (July 2013, page 10). Here is another offering from Chris.

Jack is at the church fête, taking in the atmosphere in the corner of the main lawn at the Manor House, sipping a glass of Pimm's.

A perfect English summer's day. Although not a regular church-goer, Jack was pleased to support the upkeep of the beautiful local church.

But Jack's mind is buzzing. He had recently been looking through the assorted items in the china and glass stand and had bought a cruet set for his wife Rita. He wasn't sure she would like it, but the cost was low and if she didn't approve he would donate it back to the stall next year!

As Jack put the pots into his bag he heard a rattle. Thinking he had broken it he examined the pepper pot and realised there was something inside making the noise. He opened the pot and, to his amazement, found a gold wedding ring. He went back to the stall and asked if anyone knew where the cruet set had come from. They were unsure, but thought it had been donated by the local pub from its store of redundant items.

Jack went to the Pimm's tent and sat down nearby to examine the ring, which was plain and unexceptional other than a small heart which had been engraved on the inside. He looked at the engraving and his mind fell back to the day of his wedding in 1984, when he married his childhood sweetheart, Rita. He recalled how he had arranged to meet with his best man, Clark, and some friends in the pub beforehand. After a couple of nerve soothing pints Clark had patted Jack on the back and said it was time to do the deed, and then put his hand in his pocket to check the ring. But all he found was a small hole in the lining of his trouser pocket.

Jack saw that his best friend's face was ashen white and asked what was wrong. With 30 minutes to go before the wedding ceremony, there was only time for a quick look on the floor of the crowded pub which found nothing.

Once in church, Rita's mother noticed that the groom and best man were looking flustered and asked what the problem was. She smiled and removed her wedding ring and handed it to Clark, saying that she had split from Rita's father some years ago.

The wedding ceremony commenced at the appropriate time, the ring was placed on Rita's finger; it fitted perfectly. There it had remained for 30 years.

When Jack got home from the fête he told Rita what had happened and showed her the ring. "What now?" he asked.

Since the wedding, Rita's mother had passed away. Both Rita and Jack decided that one ring should remain on her finger and the other should be given to the church, as it was derived from the church fête.

The vicar received the ring and decided to keep it with the church valuables and the churchwardens entered the details on the inventory.

Which ring would you have kept?

Chris Pexton