

Mary Ann Treble

Ghost of Abbots Langley

It was often around the time of All Souls Day that the ghostly figure of Mary Ann Treble could be seen wafting her way through St Lawrence churchyard, Abbots Langley. Amid much fascinating speculation which surrounded her death in 1914, local folklore suggests that she may have died unnaturally.

Mary Ann had been a housekeeper or servant at the vicarage before the first World War and the local theory was that, for one reason or another, Mrs Parnell, the then vicar's wife, ill-treated her.

It was said that one morning Mary Ann had complained of feeling ill and did not get ►

Mary Ann Treble

continued from previous page

out of bed when she should have. To make her get up she was given a 'good shaking' by someone which, whether it had the desired effect or not, may have been a contributing factor in her subsequent death.

Whatever the true cause of her demise, be it pneumonia or something more sinister - we shall never know, for it remains a mystery! But since then, there have been several strange and unexplained 'happenings' in the vicarage, the church and the churchyard.

Occasionally it might be no more than just the sense of someone's 'presence' felt - as when a former curate who was in the church alone, heard footsteps, then felt something brush past him - yet he saw nothing. At other times a face might appear at her old bedroom window in the vicarage, which villagers living opposite had seen and recognised as Mary Ann.

There were many such sightings of her over the years, as she walked across the churchyard from the vicarage to her grave - a mysterious soul - who was perhaps only searching for peace?

Ed. For further reading: Ghosts of Hertfordshire by Betty Puttick