In Memory of

Rose Alyce Martin-Jones

British Red Cross
Died 9 June 1918 age 46.

Remembered with honour:
The Women's National Memorial Screen in York Minster
Wymondham Abbey War Memorial

The Story of Rose Alyce Martin-Jones

Rose Alyce Jones was born in 1872 in Norwood, Camberwell, London to Frederick and Rose Jones. Her father was a stationery manufacturer. She had four siblings, none have been traced.

In 1897 Rose married Samuel Martin-Jones in Camberwell. Samuel was a vicar and by 1911 they had moved to Necton, living at Necton Rectory. By 1913 they were living at The Vicarage in Wymondham with Samuel being the vicar at Wymondham Abbey.

Rose and Samuel had three sons and a daughter; Thomas, Keith, Victor and Monica. No descendants of the four children have been traced.

Rose was the driving force behind the setting up of the Auxiliary War Hospital in Wymondham. The hospital, Voluntary Aid Detachment 92, opened on 26 November 1914 and Rose was its Commandant. Part of the hospital was in the Vicarage Rooms in Church Street and part in a house called Abbots Ford in Vicar Street.
(Pictured right: The hospital in the Vicarage Rooms. Rose seated at the piano.)

Rose died on 9 June 1918. Her death was reported as "tragic and unexpected". Reports state she had been ill for some time but she had carried on at the hospital. The cause of her death is unknown.

Rose's death was keenly felt by the hospital and local community. Her body was laid in the Abbey the night before her funeral and VADs and Special Constables kept an overnight vigil. Rose was given a military funeral which was reported in The Norfolk and Norwich Mercury on 15 June 1918. Many local dignitaries attended the funeral as well as wounded soldiers and VADs from the hospital.

After the funeral the coffin was carried through the town on a gun carriage covered with a Union Jack. All businesses in the town were temporarily suspended.

"Mrs Martin Jones had been an indefatigable worker in the parish . . . these duties she discharged with much earnestness and distinction, and early in the present year she was 'mentioned' for her conspicuous services in this direction."

Wymondham Auxiliary War Hospital closed in 1919. Rose is remembered on the Abbey war memorial and she was mentioned in the Red Cross Honours.