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GOOD BALANCE Restoration experts at the top of the spire at St Matthew's Church in Kettering Road

Tributes to Moulton GP

TRIBUTES have been paid to a family doctor, who practised in Moulton for more than 20 years, who has died aged 83.

Dr John Campling, who was born in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, always wanted to be a family doctor and realised his dream when he settled at the practice in West Street, Moulton.

He went on to practice in Moulton and the surrounding villages of Holcot, Walgrave,

Pitsford and Brixworth, from 1960 until retirement in 1989.

His wife of almost 60 years, Angela, described him as "much loved, because he always had time for people. He found them fascinating".

Dr Campling was the first trainer of GPs in Northampton and much enjoyed teaching young doctors.

With David George, he helped to establish the medical centre at the town's then

College of Further Education, and became its first medical officer.

He also joined St. John Ambulance, becoming divisional surgeon, then county surgeon and finally a Commander.

A former parish councillor, he was an active member of the Moulton Players, where he performed in and directed plays over 30 years and was also 'Dr John' on Radio Northampton. He died last month.

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Church repairs project is over

By STEPHANIE STEWARD
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Repair work costing £250,000 to the spire of a Northampton church has finally been completed.

The final step of the development took place as the original 24-carat gold cockerel was mounted back onto the top of the spire at St Matthew's Church in Kettering Road on Tuesday, 11 months after the work began.

The project featured repairs to the stonework, including the pinnacles, turrets and walls, and to the spire, which towers to a height of 170ft.

Church treasurer Richard Alcock said: "This has involved a great deal of work high up on the roof. The main reason for doing it was for safety. The stonework high up was crumbling away and it's very important to keep this secure."

This is the first work of its kind carried out on the church since it opened in 1893 and was partly funded from a trust left by a woman from Northampton who used to attend the church before she died.

More funds came in from grants, including £10,000 from the Northamptonshire Historical Churches Trust, donations, fund-raising events and loans from church-goers.

Mr Alcock said he was delighted with the work, and

added: "There is a feeling of thankfulness and satisfaction that a good job has been done to protect the church and its heritage for future generations."

'There's a feeling of satisfaction that a good job has been done'

Time capsule from 1894 found in St Matthew's

Steeplejacks working on repairs to the spire found a time capsule hidden in one of the church walls. The capsule dated back to 1894 and contained a newspaper, coins and a piece of wood signed by the workmen who originally

built the church. The church committee have created a new time capsule, containing a parish magazine, some coins and photographs, which will be placed in the walls before the scaffolding is taken down.