



## **Constance Penswick-Smith 1901- 1938**

### **Established Mothering Sunday**

Constance moved to Coddington, near Newark, aged 12 where her father was the vicar of All Saints. She was concerned to revive the tradition of Mothering Sunday as a religious celebration over and against the secular Mother's Day established in the USA in 1907. She set up an office at 15 Regent Street in Nottingham with her friend Ellen Porter the Superintendent of Nottingham's Girl's Friendly Society hostel and they designed Mothering Sunday cards, collected hymns, researched, wrote articles and plays and in 1920/1 produced a book.

She established The Society for the Observation of Mothering Sunday and together with her 4 brothers, who were vicars, held services in their churches. Gradually it became an established event and featured 'clypping' – when a special hymn is sung and the children process to collecting primroses for their mothers.

Constance died in 1938 and is buried at All Saints in Coddington, the Mothering Sunday celebration continued to grow after her death.