

Jenie Dore

Jenie has been a member of St. Mary's since 1949 and although she and her siblings, Michael and Gaynor, were baptised at St. John's they all attended Sunday School at St. Mary's from an early age.

Jenie's mother, grandmother and great grandmother were all regular churchgoers and Jenie grew up knowing she was a Christian. She was confirmed in 1957 and remembers the vicar, Idwal Jones, who had been a Padre in World War 2, sitting the boys and girls separately in the pews for confirmation preparation.

"The church used to be packed, especially at Christmas and Easter when it was overflowing and extra chairs lined the sides and back of the church. There were only boys in the choir, no girls were



allowed". She remembers when the time of Evensong had to be changed because the TV drama The Forsyte Saga had become so popular with the congregation.

One of the church highlights was the summer Fair held in the vicarage garden. A Rose Queen wearing a crown of roses and a pretty dress opened the fair with

her attenders and in the evening there was an old time dance in the village hall and a disco outside for the youngsters.

Bible classes were held on Sunday afternoons in the little church hall and run by Carol Woollatt, who later married a boy from the youth club. Jenie and her brother and sister were very close and they went to Bible classes every week.

She remembers having little cardboard bricks to put their money in to buy bricks for Guildford Cathedral and a little stamp book with pretty stamps to say you had attended class. When Jenie was confirmed she became a Sunday School teacher along with 12 others, by then there were 60 children in Sunday School. One of the biggest influences in Jenie's life was her Sunday school teacher and Guide captain, Mrs Betty Wysehall, "she expected a lot from you, but she was incredibly encouraging and gave me a lot of confidence". To this day Guiding and the Church became the thread that ran through Jenie's life wherever she lived.

After leaving school Jenie worked as a receptionist in a Public Relations company and an Advertising Agency. During those years she also became a Guide lieutenant, then a Guide Captain and later a Commissioner as well as a Sunday School teacher and Youth Club leader, her work always centred on the young. Jenie met her husband John through scouting and guides and they married at St. Mary's in 1969.

"I still think it was the best day of my life, I loved my wedding day".



Jenie and John on their wedding day with a Girl Guide 'Guard Of Honour'

Soon after their wedding John's work with a civil engineering company, Foster Wheelers, took them to South Africa for 4 years.

Jenie was not aware of apartheid until she got there but it was noticeable when they moved to Nelspruit in the Eastern Transvaal.

They had a lovely maid called Gertrude, “When Gertrude got off the bus from the Township with the other maids outside our house they were the ones with smiley faces and all the white people had grumpy faces”. They were happy years and Jenie helped the Curates wife at St. Michael and All Angels, Nelspruit to set up a new Guiding company.

When the family returned to England they went to Reading with John’s job but he left 4 years later and they came back to Worcester Park. Betty Wysehall quickly got Jenie involved in the Guides again and later she became Brown Owl of the 2nd Cuddington Brownies company where Ann Turner’s two daughters were also in the brownies. Ann and Jenie ran the company together for the next 20 years and among many other activities took the children on adventurous camping holidays.

In 1995, Jenie’s husband John died very suddenly from an aneurism, he was just 48. Her two eldest children were in their early twenties and her youngest boy was 14. Daniel, who was 23 and still

living at home, grew up very quickly becoming the person she could rely on most to sort things out. Jenie says her friends from church helped her a lot, and that was all she needed apart from her children and her parents, Tom and Olive Tandy.

“I cannot imagine my life without being involved in the church anymore than I can imagine my life without guiding”.

Jenie continues to be involved with guiding through Trefoil, part of the Girl Guide movement, and their group is soon to perform and play the ukulele in Music Gals, a kind of gang show, at Leatherhead Theatre. Jenie also does Tai Chi and plays badminton with Trefoil.