

Jean Glenny

*15th April 1929 -
11th April 2018*

Around 100 people gathered at St Mary's on a cold, damp day last month to remember and give thanks for the life of Jean Glenny, who had been a regular member of our church for close on half a century.

Jean was born in Friern Barnet, North London, the only child of Isabella and Karl Walton. After her schooling at The Woodhouse School in Finchley she started her nursing career. Her initial training was at

University College Hospital, later training in midwifery in Chelmsford.

She went on to serve as a midwife in the Hampstead and Paddington District and then at the Muswell Hill maternity home. Throughout her life she showed a love of babies and little children, and was never happier than when she was in their company.

Jean met her husband, Stanley Glenny, a secondary school teacher, at a church holiday camp on the Isle of Man in 1953. They married in 1954 at Christ Church Congregational Church in Friern Barnet. They moved to Leek, in Staffordshire in 1956, and over the next seven years produced three children: Paul, Sheila and Keith. These were happy family times, with memorable holidays in such places as Lytham St Annes, Llandudno and Southport.

In 1966 the family moved to Mulberry Drive, Wheatley when Stanley took up a position at the Lady Spencer Churchill Teacher Training College. Shortly after the move, however, he became unwell with what turned out to be a long-term serious mental health issue.



This meant that Jean effectively became a single mum to three young children, with limited financial means. She desperately wanted to maintain her marriage, but the situation proved extremely taxing.

Through all her difficulties she maintained a stoic temperament and a dogged determination, which together gave her a remarkable degree of resilience.

In 1988 her first grandchild was born and she entered a new phase of life as a loving and doting grandmother. Over the next 13 years a further eight grandchildren were born and she was once again able to indulge her love of babies and small children. She never refused an opportunity to babysit, and even when family moved to Australia, she made the trip for several extended visits, to the delight of her grandchildren. Eighteen months ago her first great-grandchild was born, and one of the last photographs of her is with her beaming great-grandson.

Jean contributed much to the life of both Wheatley Village and St Mary's Church. She sang in the choir, laundered the altar linens, polished the brass, helped at the Mothers' and Toddlers' group, was a member of the PCC, and undertook many other roles, often quietly and in the background. In the village she was the Treasurer of Wheatley Care until very recently, she sang with the Wheatley Singers, helped at the Lunch Club, and was a good friend to many.

Well into her eighties she would walk to and from ASDA for her weekly shop, and it was on one of these trips four years ago that she tripped and broke a hip and a shoulder. She never fully recovered from these injuries and her independence and confidence suffered as a result. After much thought and struggle she accepted that it was best for her to move to the Cumnor Hill House Care Home late last year. She missed her home and her friends, and her independence, but was well cared-for by the wonderful staff at the Home.

Jean died suddenly on 11th April. She will be missed by her large family, her many friends, and her church family here at St Mary's. May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.