

John's Tribute to Janet

Dear friends:

I think most of you will have a copy of the order of this thanksgiving service, with the outline of Janet's life and achievements. I want to add a few details from our long friendship. We both passed the 11+ and arrived at the same Grammar school in Godalming, even in the same class, and actually in desks side by side! You can't sit beside a girl for every school day for five years, and not be friends with her!

Once a friend of Janet's, then always a friend; she would make sure that the relationship would grow stronger and better. One of her friends at school took her to the Kings Own Bible Class, probably at Chiddingfold. They were like Crusaders, but boys and girls together; the motto was **God's who I am, and whom I serve**. It was here that Janet's personal Christian faith began, and she shared it!

Among the many lovely cards and messages I have received, is one from another Kings Own member: *"Janet and I were at primary school together – she being one of the 'older' girls. She also looked after me when I later went to Godalming, and welcomed me into her group to travel on the train together. Later, she introduced me to the Kings Own Bible Class – this was the time when I became a Christian, and what a wonderful life that became"*

It was about this time that I too was introduced to a Kings Own Bible Class in New Malden! It was my first job in the church, to be a trainee assistant leader there, as a young believer just demobilised from my 20 months National Service in Eritrea.

Another letter writer speaks of their friendship in the Christian Union at Nottingham, where Janet studied Music and English.

Whilst training at M&S Headquarters, Janet worshiped at All Souls Langham Place, sometimes helping after work with the outreach to the city's homeless, with the St. Mungo's Charity.

Janet's association with this church here in Amersham began when she needed help after the sudden tragic death of Douglas, her first husband. Someone in this fellowship here really gave Janet the love and guidance she so desperately needed at that time – and she stayed! For 18 years we have worshiped here together one Sunday mornings at Matins.

Janet was also involved here in the Bereavement Counselling Group. As manager of Mackay's in Chesham, Janet had the special gift of seeing the potential in people; another lovely card among the many I have received includes this sentence: *"Janet was a very kind and supportive employer to me at McKays in Chesham. It was my first real job after having my three children, and without her flexibility [fitting my shifts in with my husband's police shifts], I would have struggled. She also encouraged me to take on more responsibility at work, which gave me the confidence to go to college when we moved, and hold down a rewarding position in accounting."* That was Janet!

Before I moved from Norfolk and married, Janet had retired from work, but was a regular volunteer driver for "Meals on Wheels"

What special memory of Janet do I have? Janet was my best friend, one who never ceased loving and caring for me. I think it was the way she worked at our relationship, enriching, and encouraging, and sharing her own special interests: in music, art, architecture and above all her personal love of the Lord Jesus. Her love for me over the years has made me a different and better person.

Thank you, Janet.