

Liz Crocker

Farewell Liz. It is difficult to think of St Nicholas', Chiswick, without her. She was a vibrant part of the life of our church for as long as anyone can remember. And all along she was also active in a wide range of activities beyond the doors of St Nics.

The young Liz, who joined the Wrens during the war, was already involved in the theatre, to which she returned later and where she met her husband, John, while stage managing. As a young mother in Chiswick she found her way to St Nics and became a life-long member of the Mothers' Union. When her two children, Ben and Jenny, were older Liz worked as the Librarian for the School of Nursing, in the first building of the new Charing Cross Hospital. Out of hours, she was appointed District Commissioner for the Girl Guides, a post she took up enthusiastically having been a guide as a girl and which she followed with membership of the Trefoil Guild. Retirement from the library, when it came, was not retirement for her as she was immediately head-hunted in the Chiswick M&S queue to work for the Child Growth Foundation at its office just down the road.

At St Nics she'll be remembered in a host of ways: for the lively talks she gave to the Mothers' Union, sometimes telling the stories of treasured possessions; for the practice, which she started, of sending out cards to children on the anniversary of their baptism; for her flower arranging; for initiating the Easter Lilies scheme; for running the coffee rota; for being a sidesperson right until the end of her life. We'll remember her reading of the lessons, with such clarity and depth of tone, and how she spoke in public, simply and so persuasively that you had to listen. Do you remember how she introduced us one Lent to the Westnell Nursery project in Peru, started by student friends of her daughter, Jenny ? She struck a bell that day which rang for many years. She spoke just as engagingly in small discussion groups and at Focus, which she enjoyed attending.

What will remain, though, in our memories of Liz is likely to be not so much what she did as how she was: a welcoming presence as she greeted newcomers, a steadfast and trusting Christian, deeply committed to her parish church, and a warm and supportive friend, with a great sense of humour as well as forthright and determined views. She'll be remembered for her hospitality, her good looks and elegance – those beautiful up-turned collars of hers always delighted me; for her gratitude for the help she received from friends and for her uncomplaining attitude to the pain and physical disability which she had to cope with in recent years. We at St Nics shall miss her greatly. How much more will she be missed by her family – by John, by Ben and Jenny and by her grandchildren, whom she adored. Our thoughts went out to them.

Christabel Ames-Lewis