

# Connie Murkin 1922 - 2011

*Her Life and Work*



Connie was born in Leytonstone in 1922 but she came to live in Hertford as a baby and she never moved. She was the eldest of three girls born to Christine and

George Ditton, a retired army officer. They were active members of St Andrews Church and she followed her father in becoming a bellringer at the age of 12. She was recorded as the first girl to have rung a peal in the history of the Hertford College Youths. She rang the treble bell for 5040 changes in three hours.

The war put an end to bellringing and she transferred her allegiance to All Saints. She won a scholarship to Ware Girls Grammar School, leaving to work for the LNER Railway all through the war in London. At nights she came home and did duty as warden in the ARP Service.

She was secretary of the Twenties Club which was set up to welcome home those returning from war duties. It was then she met Charles and they were married in 1950. Two boys, Andrew and Brian came along and at one stage they were all in the choir. Connie was one of the first ladies who robed to sing in the choir.

She soon got involved in the Scout Movement and at one stage she was running two cub packs. Later she became Assistant District Commissioner and took in catering at the Lockearnhead Activity Centre in Scotland. Mainly for family reasons she retired with the Medal of Merit but she was quickly drawn into church affairs.

She was asked to take over leadership of the Women's Fellowship and she served on the Church Council. She was one of the first women to become churchwarden and this

she did during a difficult period with a vacancy caused by the sudden death of the Revd Reginald Haw. She became a sidesman and organiser of the Church Membership Fund. She was also a church trustee.

Poor health left her housebound and she suffered more because she could not take up the active roles she wanted to.

She was extremely modest in all activities undertaken and never sought to put herself forward as a leader but this did follow. She settled for a quiet family life and enjoyed her knitting and embroidering.

## Special Peal

**Hertford**, Hertfordshire, All Saints

Sunday 14 August 2011 in 52 minutes (25-0-25)

### 1260 Grandsire Triples

- 1 David Kemp (Snr)
- 2 Heather A Lever
- 3 David S Harris
- 4 Claire C Nicholson
- 5 Bjørn E Bradstock ©
- 6 John J Ford
- 7 Alastair M S Stracey
- 8 Jill E Reeves

Rung as a thanksgiving for the life and work of Constance Murkin lifelong member, churchwarden and one time ringer of All Saints Church Hertford.

John Kemp and Christopher Hayter wish to be associated with this tribute.

## Special Anthem

At the Choral Evensong on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October the anthem will be 'How lovely are they dwellings fair' by Brahms – often sung by the choir when Connie was a member and still using mostly the same copies.