

Helen Harvey-Wright

Our new churchwarden introduces herself

My parents were missionaries in Northern Nigeria where I was born in 1940. I was educated in England from the age of five, and was brought up very strictly within the Plymouth Brethren. It was during this time I had a thorough grounding in the Bible, and a firm belief in God. I was baptised by immersion when I was 13.

After leaving school, I gained my Orthopaedic Nursing Certificate at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford, where I regularly attended the 8 o'clock communion service at St. Aldate's and grew to love the Anglican Liturgy.

I married Keith when I was 19 and he was 21. We had our ups and downs, but remained married for 49 years until his death in 2010 from aggressive bowel cancer. We have two sons, the eldest Kevin lives in Hertford with lifelong partner Sue, while Graham lives in East Ham with his wife Linda.

With Keith's work, we moved a fair amount. He was a strong Christian and a staunch Baptist, so my church experience has mostly been within that denomination where at various times I was involved with Sunday School, youth groups, healing ministries, prayer groups and church government.

When living in Harrogate in the late 1960's I was hospitalised with serious depression. This still seems to be a taboo subject and it should not be. I was unable to pray at that point, but was carried through by other people's prayers.

I went to Leeds University and gained my B.Ed degree in 1976. I started teaching, finishing my career as Head Teacher of a large primary school with a Special Needs Unit in Swindon. When I retired we moved to North Yorkshire, but after Keith's death I moved here to be near my sons.

I received a warm welcome at All Saints' and I felt I had found my spiritual home. I was confirmed on 1st March 2012. I have been on the PCC for some time, and feel

privileged to be a chalice assistant and able to take Holy Communion to the housebound. It is also a joy to lead intercessions, and to host the Prayer Group.



I was really touched by your support when John and I were married here last year, so this is a public thank you from us both.

I hope, with God's help and your support, to serve you as Churchwarden to the best of my ability.