

Judith Round

Judith was unexpectedly born in Chester. Her parents lived in Hitchin and were visiting their parents, when Judith decided to make an early appearance.

Judith was brought up in Hitchin in Hertfordshire, with her brother and her parents. She lived there for 18 years before going to Bristol University to study English. On graduating, and on the advice of her father, Judith initially did a shorthand typing course which also included business and executive skills. She was not subsequently over impressed with the career options for an English graduate and, when she heard of a job working for the interests of the island of Nauru in the central Pacific, built on bird excrement



(guano), she thought it sounded far more interesting. The guano was sold for fertiliser and provided the highest per capita income in the world at that time. She very much enjoyed working there and meeting the President in London for a State Visit.

The President, having met the Queen, decreed that the staff had to walk backwards away from him. And his aide, on a trip to Ede and Ravenscroft, the University outfitters and London's oldest robe maker, fancied the look of all the gold on a General's hat and declared that he would make himself a General in order to own one. This all made life very interesting, in between dealing with visas, and such like. At the time she shared a house with two other

girls in Muswell Hill, and she is still in contact with them.

Judith met her husband, Bill, at a Varsity event following graduation. He was working as a Mechanical Engineering lecturer at Kingston Polytechnic and was 13 years older than her, but

there was an instant attraction and they married in 1972 and set up home in Surbiton.

Eight years later, they moved to Worcester Park and had a son, Mark, followed two years later by

a daughter, Elaine. It

was a very happy marriage, though it was prematurely cut short by the death of Bill from



Judith and Bill on their Wedding Day in 1972

cancer when he was only 53, and Judith was 39, with two children of 9 and 7. Two years later her brother was killed in a motor accident in France, where he was living at the time.

Those years were very hard. However, Judith got through them with the help and support of friends and her Church. She says that you never think that you are going to be able to cope with the disasters that life throws at you, but you are somehow given the strength to get through. Judith really appreciated the love and support that surrounded her at the time. For example, the Scouts were holding a 'father and son' camp, and a leader rang to say that his son didn't want to go, and could he take Mark to the camp in his place. He went and had a wonderful time. "It was obviously a put-up job", she said, "but things like that you don't forget".

Judith has always gone to Church. Her parents attended Church, her father being a Churchwarden at one time, and her mother a flower arranger, and

they wanted their children to be brought up within the Church. Their next door neighbours, who were Baptists, used to take Judith and her brother to the Baptist Sunday School on Sunday afternoons. It must have been a lovely free afternoon for my parents, says Judith. At University, Judith continued to attend worship, and her faith has been important to her throughout her life.

At St. Mary's, Judith plays a central role in many of the activities. She is a Pastoral Assistant, she is on the flower and cleaning rotas, and is a helper at Conquest Art. She runs the Thursday Club, and arranges lifts for all those unable to get to Church or to Church activities. In the past, she has been a member of the PCC, the Mother's Union and Young Wives Group, and she now helps at the local Food Bank.

In addition to all these activities, Judith has been a much-loved leader of the St. Mary's Walking Group, taking groups of people, both Church-going and non Church-going, on beautiful walks in the Surrey Hills



The St Marys Walking Group

every Thursday morning for over 20 years. She has only just stepped down from this role.

Judith is entering a new phase in her life. She has become a grandmother to Emma and is enjoying the pleasure that this brings. Her son and daughter-in-law now live in Sussex, and she delights in visiting them. She is also very close to her daughter. Family, in all its forms, is a joy.