

Tribute to Rosemary Botting

Rosemary began life as Rosemary Laura Beckett, born on April 22nd 1924 in Blackfields, Hampshire. The family moved from there to Streatham in London and finally to Wales. Once her school days were over, Rosemary began to work as a secretary for an architectural firm in Streatham, a decision which was to have life changing implications because it was there that she met Kenneth who was one of the architects and in due course they married.

Ken and Rosemary lived in Epsom Downs in a house which Ken designed – he also supervised its building and even won an award for the design which, for that time, was right up with the most modern ideas. The house became a home and it was there that their children Lucy and Kristian were brought up.

In the 1960s, Ken was diagnosed with MS; Rosemary cared for him during the 15 – 20 years of his illness. Rosemary was a member of St Martin's Epsom for many years and people remember her bringing Ken in a wheelchair for services. After he died in 1984, Rosemary's role as a carer continued when her mother came to live with her.

Her Christian faith was central to Rosemary's life and she was a loyal and active member of St Martin's, serving on various Church committees over the years. However she was also active in a wider sphere. She was a dedicated representative of St Martin's on Churches Together in Epsom and through her commitment to the Mothers' Union undertook responsibilities at Deanery and Diocesan level too, for example organising the Women's World Day of Prayer. Rosemary was particularly committed to inter-faith matters and supported the Prayers for Peace in Epsom each year. Earlier during the troubles in Northern Ireland she was to the fore in organising holidays for children from Belfast.

Rosemary's loss of hearing brought particular frustrations; however, there was some positive compensation in the loving eye-contact and the attentive concentration which Rosemary brought to conversation. She was a great encourager and this was often demonstrated by her lovely smile and warm embrace. She always attended the afternoon baptisms on behalf of the Mothers' Union to bring a welcome from the church.

Rosemary was a Franciscan Tertiary, professed in 1983, which gave a clear structure to her spiritual life. Her vocation and commitment to her Rule of Life were certainly demonstrated in her life.

Rosemary treasured her memories of her visit to Jerusalem in 2010 and of the privilege of walking in the land where Christ had walked. It was not just on that special pilgrimage – Rosemary always tried to walk in Christ's footsteps as a loyal disciple of her Lord.

In 2006 she had the great honour of receiving the Maundy Money from the Queen at Guildford Cathedral. We imagine her now receiving the commendation in the New Jerusalem – as she is welcomed as a 'good and faithful servant'.

And finally we remember her struggles in her final years. Rosemary continued with fortitude and the loving support of family and friends. Rosemary was always thinking of others and she was generous to the last ... in donating her body for medical research.

May Rosemary rest in peace and rise in glory.

Adapted from the tribute at Rosemary's thanksgiving service by Revd Lynn Alsop 29.01.16