

## EARLSDON METHODIST CHURCH CENTENARY

*"Congratulations on your Centenary  
and your faithful witness down the years  
to the distinct community that is Earlsdon Village."*

My late husband John began his seven-year ministry at Earlsdon in September 1982. Following the Rev Dr John Sampson, he inherited a well-organised, thriving church in good heart and full of able, committed people from across the age spectrum, with a lovely mix of local people and those whose roots were elsewhere.



John and Ann happily moved into the Manse at 3 Beechwood Avenue in the summer of 1982, with daughter Penny about to begin her second year at University. Later Beth the cat joined the household.

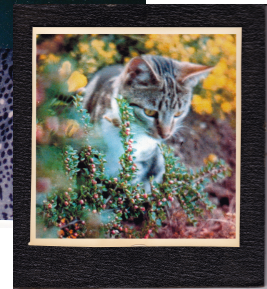


Photo on far left by David Cule.

After leaving Coventry, John went back home to Yorkshire and was a Super in Leeds for eight years. Aged 65 he left that large city circuit and moved to a small rural one in Norfolk, Ann's home county, where he worked for five years before retiring when he was 70. He had a bad stroke a year later but was cared for at home for the nine years up to his death in 2003.

It is over thirty years since we left Coventry but we have been able to keep in touch with news of Earlsdon through Christmas cards, letters and visits from folk on holiday nearby.

The Centenary Anniversary has allowed me to go through my memory and cupboards for reminders of our life in Earlsdon and I found I had too much for the space available for the memories of one person covering a mere seven years of a 100-year history! So I have ended up with a lengthy Memoir of the years of John's ministry at Earlsdon, and I hope it will be happy reminder of those days, especially for those of you who were there at that time.

Since 1989 our houses have contained reminders of our time in Coventry in various forms: a well-used cheese slicer, a present on our Silver Wedding, and used almost daily; the large geranium plant in our bathroom mentioned elsewhere; various books about the city; Cash products including a copy of Sutherland's *Christ in Glory*, butterfly and bird pictures; and always centre stage in our living room has been a beautiful large pottery vase bought in Spon Street.

Hand-made treasures include two preaching stoles made by Valerie Scott; a beautifully embroidered picture *Water into Wine* from/by Heather and Valerie; and a caricature of John in full preaching attire made by a circuit LP Stephen Lake of Woodside. It is modelled round a large stone which stands next to a small pile of tiny books with appropriate titles.

All lovely treasured reminders of forty years ago.

**Ann Waterhouse, Norfolk. June 2023**