

Ruth Sharp (1936–2018)

This is adapted from the tribute given by Ted Sharp at Ruth's memorial service.

Ruth was the youngest of four in a staunch and outwardly focussed Methodist family; she never lost her strong Christian belief or her family's culture of putting others first and of being fully committed to doing the best you were capable of in anything you took on.

She qualified as a pharmacist with a BSc at Manchester University and worked in various hospitals with a short spell in retail in Bradford.

She met her husband Ted in the Isle of Man at the age of 21 at a holiday organisation called the C. H. A. This stood for Christian Holidays Association. (C. H. A. also stood for catch husbands association.) Ruth and Ted married in 1961 and had 56 of the happiest years together.

As soon as the first of her three sons, Nicholas, was born, she devoted herself to the family which was from then on her first priority and her joy.

Ted and Ruth moved to Tewin nearly 50 years ago. During the early years she helped as what would now be called a classroom assistant in the village school, primarily helping with maths.

She played a large part in church life, organising readers, cleaning, helping with Sunday School and the music, particularly in organising the evensong and carol choir.

She was always there for anybody who needed help, support, welcome or hospitality. It just came naturally to her. Always cheerful, always friendly, always positive, always encouraging and full of energy.

She lived life to the full. She played tennis, badminton and hockey, she was a member of Knebworth Golf club for 28 years playing almost weekly except for the last year and organised their annual charity bridge afternoon for many years. Gardening was a real passion for her and she spent hours every week doing it.

Ted and Ruth travelled widely. They motorcycled all across Europe: Germany, France, Italy, the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Dolomites. Ruth loved flying in microlites and gliders. Her instructor said her flying was exciting at times and almost safe. She was brave enough to fly on her own with Ted, when they were in their mid-seventies only weeks after he got his pilot's licence.

She loved choral singing as a member of the Hertford Choral Society for many years.

Ted describes his years with Ruth and their family as full of happiness, companionship, laughter and enjoyment; never dull. Even in the last months when she was frustrated by enforced inactivity, she never lost her cheerfulness and courage.

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