

Obituary: Edith Hollander – 24th April 1927 – 26 June 2016

The funeral of Edith Hollander was held at St. Nicholas Church Baydon on Friday 15th July 2016.

The service was led by Rev. Hayward Osborne, Edith's son-in-law.

In his address the Rev Osborne said that Edith had had a good life, was well liked and respected by all.

She was born in Frankfurt Germany on the border with Poland. Her father's family were Jewish and her mother's Christian. As an only child she led a happy carefree life. She learnt English at her grammar school which stood her in good stead later. When she was only eleven she was woken up in the night to see the Synagogue going up in flames. Extremely worried about the terror evolving in Germany. Edith's parents got her on to the Kinder Transport in March 1939 (when she was just 11 years old). When she reached England she was sent to the Barnardo's home in Rippon. From there it was decided that she, now aged 16, should train to be a Nursery nurse. She later worked in the Bristol home.

In 1945 Edith returned to Germany to find her traumatised mother and just a farewell letter from her father. They never saw him again. However she then met John, who had also recently returned to his homeland. They returned to England together with nothing, and married in 1948.

The couple had a happy life together in Kent and produced daughter Sandra and twin boys David and Tony.

Edith worked in a doctor's surgery for a time, where her sensitivity and kindness was appreciated by patients and doctors alike.

When the children were all married the couple moved to Baydon to run the Post Office Stores. Edith was loved and respected in the village being part of the Women's Institute, Gardening Club, and Church and as a volunteer with Stroke Victims.

When finally they retired they had a house built in the grounds behind the shop, where they lived until they moved to Marlborough.

Edith always gave a wonderful welcome to her grandchildren and great grandchildren, and any friends who visited there could expect great hospitality.

Edith cared for her husband John until he moved to a care home.

The couple loved Baydon and felt that it was their real home – deciding to be buried together in the Churchyard when their time came.

After John's death Edith found the fascination of the internet, much to the amazement and delight of her 10 grandchildren. She wrote a book about her life, which was published entitled "Sunshine and Showers".

Edith was both ordinary and remarkable, said the Rev Osborne. She moved to a nursing home in Kent two years ago and finally slipped away quietly in the night, 26th June 2016.

Grandson Joseph read from the New Testament, and granddaughter read a poem written by Edith.

Donations were made to the Alzheimer's Support for Wiltshire

Refreshments were enjoyed at the Red Lion Pub after the burial.

The last poem written by Edith Hollander - September 2014

Our thoughts take us on travels,
to where – we cannot know.
So much they unravel,
which way we choose to go?

Where fate may ever lead us
is not for us to know.
However if we heed this
the right path it will show.

Look back upon those years now gone
when sun was bright and always shone.
When family grew – became a clan,
our loving family life began.

How blessed we are – now old and grey
fate truly found the perfect way.
We thank our God with heart and voice
for us, He made the perfect choice.