

## **'This is His story, this is His song – This is my story, this is my song'**

Margaret Antill - churchwarden at St Laurence shares her story

### **Let go and let God take over.**

When my Dad was ill, we had two live-in carers who worked two weeks on and two weeks off. This had worked very well and was ideal for Dad. Then one carer got very difficult, wanted extra holiday and we had to ask him to leave.

The suggestion was that we take up a Social Services offer for respite care. I investigated this, but with a shortage of time I visited the suggested home and straight away knew it was not for Dad.

I got back and had a chat with Marcia Sutton who as always gave pearls of wisdom. This helped, then the same day I ran into Gill Kimber (then our Parish Deacon). She just said *"Let go and let God take over."*

How right she was. I asked an agency for cover and who should come, but Paul Battson. It took a while before he could come permanently as a carer. While with us, he attended church, an Alpha Course and became a Christian.

After Dad's death he came back to us especially to help out with the Flower Festival doing the display in the recess and keeping house for us every year until his untimely death in 2014

### **God won't let you down.**

Some of you will remember that when my Mum died our children were still very young i.e. 3 years and 18 months.

It was spring, but the Flower Festival for that year had already been planned and the various displays mostly allocated. The theme for the next year was also on the drawing board. I did not know how I would cope with all that would be needed but I did know that the festival would happen.

One of our church members retired that year and was able to give me tremendous support. Also my aunts came and stayed, looked after the children and kept house while I did all the running around for the first few years.

Then by the time my aunts felt unable to cope we had live in carers looking after Dad. They were keeping house and the children were big enough to come along with me and be useful in church.

Over the 30 years now that the leadership of the Flower Festival has been with me, God has always given the strength and help to everyone involved to ensure that the whole event has "Worked".

2020 has been the first time the festival has had to be organised in less than 18 months, but by God's grace things are all falling into place. Yes there are hurdles still to surmount –

- Will we cope with the technology being all so new to us?
- Will the different form of publicity work?
- Will people want to go to the internet to see what we have done?
- Will we reach the people who year by year support these events?
- Will people find the fellowship that is such a strong feature of our festivals?
- Will we be able to bring the Christian message to our website visitors?

But I am confident that if we all do our best God will make it work.