

MILL GROVE 9th May 2020, 120th ANNIVERSARY

MEMORIES FROM MARGARET

'They are my girls!' Were the words of Mr Herbert White when he came to the station in his old car, DG 61 to pick up Mary [5] and Margaret [3] Burns to take them to the Grove, Tiptree, where they would be cared for. Although life was quite strict, they were happy and well cared for there and enjoyed living in that lovely country area. About 12 years later they were the last to leave Tiptree and be taken the Children's Home and Mission, South Woodford, London E.18.

Mary [now Moore] is widowed, disabled and being cared for in a Nursing Home in Basildon where she is still regularly visited every week by three of the 'girls' she grew up with in the now 'Mill Grove' [Peggy, Margaret and Helen]. What wonderful lasting friendships from those years in the Home!

Margaret said she spoke on the phone to Mary yesterday [3/5/20] and said she was very happy and in safe hands where she is.

At first the Home was linked with George Land Baptist Church and later with Grove Road Evangelical Church. There Margaret met Gordon [Billett] and after they were married, moved into Waverly Road – backing on to the Home. Gordon was able to lend a hand with some of the jobs around the Home. They moved to Shrewsbury in 1972. They really appreciated the visits of Mr and Mrs White calling in on their way up to North Wales.

Margaret is now widowed and living in Shrewsbury near her three children and five grandchildren.

Margaret sends her greetings for this 120th Anniversary. She spoke of how happy she was at Mill Grove and thankful for a good Christian home and upbringing.

She said *'After all where would we have been without them?'*

MEMORIES FROM JOHN – MARGARET'S BROTHER IN LAW

I'll not forget the time when all the children from Mill Grove began to attend Grove Road Evangelical Church, where I was converted and to which I belonged and was taught the Word of God. The children and staff all seemed to fit in so well. The pastor was William White and he had a wonderful Bible teaching ministry and a huge pastoral heart. My parents used to greatly enjoy the Sunday evening times of refreshments, fellowship and singing at the Home.

In my second pastorate at Goldings Church Loughton we sent our harvest goods to the Home and were delighted with visits and ministry from Vic. Such an impression of the work of the Home with its Christian commitment and its way of living by faith in God to meet every need, was left on two lovely elderly spinsters that when they died they left their house to the Home.

When we were called to West Worthing Evangelical Church in 1990 we were delighted to discover among our members Henry 'Pat' and Rose Paterson who for a time served the Lord by working at the Home. When they returned to Worthing they often had some of the children to stay for holidays. 'Pat' was one of the godliest gracious faithful delightful men I ever knew. The loveliness of the Lord Jesus shone out of him – despite his huge 2nd world war inflicted disabilities.

What a great joy it was one Sunday evening towards the end of my ministry in Worthing to find Vic and Margaret in our evening congregation. Vic was persuaded to say a few words during the Service and he and Margaret joined Barbara and for coffee the next day. Precious memories of a bright winsome Christ-like couple. 'Have faith in God' was not only a text over the door but a real testimony of Vic and Margaret's life as well as the story of Mill Grove.