

# Denise Dilley

23<sup>rd</sup> September 1944 – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011

*Gerry Booker's Eulogy at her funeral Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

We come here today to give thanks to God for the life of a lovely lady, Denise Dilley. She was the sort of person I heard about from my first Vicar, who told me "if want to get anything done in a parish look for someone who is busy doing a variety of Good Things." This was Denise, always giving herself unstintingly to a variety of tasks, and always going them with a smile and a cheerful word – she stressed that she wanted laughs at her funeral.



Denise Rose grew up in Hoddesdon and went to John Warner School, where one of her classmates was my wife, Renée. When she left school she found work as a secretary in Concrete Utilities at Ware and

then, appropriately, at Steven's the rose growers, at Hoddesdon where she was very happy. When the nursery closed, she worked for a short time at Addis, and then began her work at the Wallace House Surgery.

She was always something of a practical joker and when, whilst she was at Steven's, she met Brian she told him that her name was Toybe Rose. Poor Brian introduced her to his parents under this fictitious name, and it was some time later that he had to re-introduce her under her proper name to folk as their relationship became serious!

It was her sense of fun and practical jokery which brought a fairly swift end to her time at Addis, where her boss was a very dour stick-in-the-mud person. He had a tightly furled umbrella, into which Denise decided to empty a packet of split peas – which gave him something of a surprise when he

unfurled it in the rain! She had to confess to Brian that she had got the sack!

There was another time when things didn't quite work out; when Richard and Jo were quite small, Denise decided it would be nice to make them some candy floss. She didn't have the proper machine for this so she improvised and poured a whole lot of sugar into the spin dryer – which never worked again!

With their move to Ware Road Denise and Brian became lively members of All Saints Church, becoming more and more involved and hardworking in its life; Denise with her catering, her responsibility for the Bible Reading Fellowship and her hardworking efforts to raise money for the church. She was a founder of the Art Group, a member of the PCC and was a willing helper to many people and for so many causes such as the Museum and the Red Cross.

She was always enthusiastic and, on one occasion when a sidesperson was trying to blow out a large tall candle she urged him to blow harder and harder – which resulted in the candle burning ever brighter and a set of dentures embedding themselves in the base of the candle!

When Denise was diagnosed with breast cancer she bore her illness bravely and we all hoped and believed that she had made a full recovery. She resumed her many activities and seemed to be her old self. Her life has touched so many of us, here and around Hertford, for good and she has been an inspiration and example for us all.

So we commit her to the care of the God she loved and served so well, in the knowledge that she has that special place prepared for her, by her Loving Lord; and we will, I am sure, be chuckling from time to time at our memories of her.