

- **Eulogy for Joyce Lillian Wiltshire**
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 1926 to Christmas Day 2023
- Great Grandmother, to 9, Grandmother to 8, and Mother to 4 plus 1 ----- but NO wait a moment she was not mother to just her children she was mother to all who knew her, even Stan called her mother and I know of several people who call her mother. She was a very special Lady.
- Joyce was born in Bristol and lived all of her younger years in village of Shirehampton. Times were difficult in the 1930s. Joyce's school class were going to have swimming lessons but she didn't have a costume – don't worry said her mother I will knit you one. Joyce was so proud of her costume, well she was until she got out of the water and her gusset was beneath her knees. She remembered opening her birthday cards on the morning of her 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday amongst which was her call up papers to army. A few days later she was of the Catterick to enlist as a WREN. She hated every minute of her time at Catterick she had never been away from the Bristol area. Six weeks of training then stationed back to Bristol to work in Southmead, Hospital Blood Bank Department. Now Stan was the same age as Joyce so he had completed his training and was stationed in the Wiltshire Regiment as a dispatch rider for the medical Corp, part of his job was to collect blood from Southmead. He couldn't stand the sight of blood and would faint at the sight of it (an inconvenient problem in a war) So Joyce used to put the bottles of blood in brown paper bags for him, and that how they met.
- They were married in 1948 but Stan had been stationed in India in the latter stages of the war. Material for Wedding dresses was in short supply after the war so Stan returned to England laden with Indian Silk for Joyce's Wedding Dress and Parachute silk for the Bridesmaid dresses all of which were made by Joyce. Just look at the quality of the dresses in the photograph in the Social Club and admire the quality.
- The wedding to place on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1948 and hence began a marriage lasting weeks short of 70 years and produced 4 children John Graham Linda and Margaret. Joyce's younger sister tragically died early in life so Joyce and Stan became Guardian of Stephen. Linda unfortunately passed away the day after she was born and it was the biggest regret of mums

life was that she never got to hold her daughter. We sincerely hope she is holding her now.

- Joyce Wiltshire the only woman to ever burn the Jelly !!! You see Joyce could only concentrate on one thing at a time for instance Stan was teaching Joyce drive with 3 screaming children on the back seat begging Dad to take over. Dad was explaining about the three foot pedals and gear stick and then she had to steer as well. Well that was too much for Joyce to take in. Back to the Jelly --- Joyce was boiling the jelly in a saucepan on the Rayburn, there are no heating controls on a Rayburn, if the fire is alight the hob, the oven and the grill are all hot. One of the grandchildren falls in the pond --- PANIC--- Joyce rushes to the aid of the child and forgets about the Jelly. A horrible black honeycomb was the result. As explained only one thing at a time
- One final story that will emphasise her Character and infectious laugh. Picture the scene, a hot summers day Joyce and her Aunt Glad in summer frocks are stood outside the main Post office in Oban, Scotland with "wish you were here" postcards in hand. They were busy talking offering the postcards to the post box but then they started talking again, this happened several times. Unbeknown to them the postman had opened the box inside the post office and was waiting to remove the sack and he could obviously see the postcards through the letter box being offer and then taken away several times. So he pushed his hand through the letter box and took them from Joyce's grasp. Two summer frocks collapsed on the pavement with two ladies in complete fits of laughter. Let's just say the skirts were extremely wet when the stood up and so was the pavement.
- How can we fit 97 wonderful years into a short synopsis of her life? So it's time to say good-bye but it's not really, many if not all of this congregation and many more who cannot be here have such fantastic memories of you, your legacy will live on for many years to come.
- ON BEHALF OF US ALL GOOD-BYE MOTHER