



## Dear Friends

I am sure everyone appreciates the beautiful flower arrangements we enjoy every Sunday in the church, four of which were on the cover of May's News, so I thought I would give you some background information. Presently there are 7 of us – 3 groups of 2 (Chris & Margaret Hillyard, Marian and Heather, and Janet O'C & Maren) and Barbara who does it alone. Therefore each group does it 3 times a year. We buy the flowers from Tesco or Sainsburys.



Albert Waite was the organizer for very many years when I joined the church in 1995, and he used to go to Springfield at Crews Hill every Thursday and always did very distinctive arrangements. One of the special memories at that time is of the small Easter Cross. He bought the frame and it was always Margaret Hill's job to fill it with daffodils - if still in season - or yellow roses. It was then hung on the brick wall in the church.

When he died very unexpectedly Barbara Corfe took over and arranged everything very efficiently. She asked for volunteers, as mentioned above, some of whom had no experience at all, I for one. However, with a little bit of instruction we managed. Barbara also arranged workshops with LUI the owner of Majestic Flowers – no longer in Darkes Lane - at one of which we were shown how to make wreaths for Christmas. At Christmas the church is always filled with decorated and lit Trees (thanks to Robert). Steve the Caretaker dresses the big tree and each of us does one tree each. Babara



also organised the poppies on Remembrance Day sewing over 150 knitted poppies (which the Knit & Natter group had made), to netting which was draped over the pulpit. She also arranged the artificial flowers in the vestibule, changing them for the seasons. Albert had originated this.

I have also spoken at length to Margaret Barton, pictured here in 2002, who with Jean Taylor (Roger Taylor's mother) was in charge of flowers in the 80's. She named some other ladies who you may remember – Gwen Pursey, Barbara Potts, and Margaret Miller. There was of course a very large congregation at that time, and they had Flower Festivals which were open to the public, but she said their busy time was for Weddings. One year they had 13 Weddings and on one occasion they had two Weddings on the same day. The mothers of the brides each wanted their own flowers and colours which must have been so difficult, but the



ladies managed it.

As most of you contribute to the cost of the flowers which is a date chosen for remembrance of a loved one or a birthday or special occasion, we thank you very much indeed and so the flowers will continue to give pleasure to us all. If you would like to join this list, there are some dates available.

Wishing you all a very healthy, happy and safe summer holiday – wherever you may go.

*Janet O'Connor*

*On behalf of the Elders*