

Memories of Meg Stanton: Written by Elizabeth Pearce

Read at Meg's Thanksgiving Service on 17th December 2012 by Phil Bray

Meg was born in Chalvey in 1935 and was an only child. She had a lovely voice and her parents wanted her to be trained as a singer, she took singing lessons for a while but Meg had other ideas, she loved animals, in particular, horses and was determined to work with them. Her parents insisted that if she was to have her own stables and horses she must work hard to earn the money to buy and own her own business. She had already had riding lessons and had worked at the local riding stables.

Her first stables were in Windsor and to make extra money she used to drive lorries back to their depots in the Slough area. She was an excellent horse woman and competed at local shows. The Royal family used to call upon her to borrow horses from her stables when they had visitors and wanted to all ride out together.

Her father died while on holiday with her mother and she regretted not having spent more time with him. By this time she had moved to the stables at Pinkneys Green.

She was engaged to Charlie, but never married as there never seemed to be time in their busy lives. He was a great help to her over many years as she was to him as an extra hand when needed at his farm. She was very attractive and lived a full and lively life. She owned several retired horses and used to go to auctions and if she felt the person bidding for a particular horse was not going to treat the animal well, she would bid against them and buy the animal herself. She found that she often had to spend the night at the stables either if one of the horses were sick or if one of them was in foal.

She eventually got permission from the council to have a mobile home put on her land by the stables. Her mother came to live with her but, owing to dementia, had to go into a nursing home. It was at this time that she discovered Burberry Hall.

The Story of How Meg Stanton became a Christian: Written by June Bray

Read at her Thanksgiving Service on 17th December 2012 by Phil Bray

I haven't known Meg for very long, but one day I was sitting with her and she told me this remarkable story of how she became a Christian, and how the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd had sought and found her, even though she hadn't realised that she was 'lost'.

She told me that, when she was younger, she had 'no time' for people! She loved horses but she just wasn't interested in people!

This all changed one day when she went to deliver a bag of manure to an address in Cookham Dean – it was the home of John and Lois Evans. After she had completed the delivery, Lois invited her into the house for a cup of tea. No one had ever done this before, and Meg felt that she couldn't accept the invitation, as she wasn't clean enough, as she had no doubt come straight from the stables! Lois insisted that she would love her to come in and she could always go and wash her hands first. So Meg came into the house! Meg told me "God must have a sense of humour – I don't suppose anyone else has ever come to know Him through delivering a 'bag of manure'!

Lois Evans was a keen Christian, and showed such love and kindness to Meg that it made a huge impression on her. Before Meg left, Lois gave her a little booklet, entitled 'Little Girl Lost', and I think it was on this occasion that she also told her that she would be most welcome any time to join them at a service at her little church, which was Burberry Gospel Hall, near St Mark's Hospital.

When Meg arrived back home, she just 'couldn't wait' to read the little booklet. So she made herself a cup of tea and sat down to read it – this was totally 'out of character' for Meg!! It must have created quite an impression on her and I imagine she kept it safely so that she could read it again from time to time.

Several weeks passed, and Meg continued with her life as before – she used to visit the local Pub and meet with a few acquaintances and have a drink and a smoke at the end of a busy day with the horses. But she found it difficult to forget what Lois had talked about – How that there was a God who really loved Meg and that how that He sent His Son to die for her, and would like to be her Friend and Saviour.

She had found out where Burberry Gospel Hall was, but at first didn't have any strong inclination to go there. One day, however, she found herself walking right past the Pub in the direction of Burberry Hall. She continued to do this on several occasions, but didn't have enough courage to go inside.

One day, the urge to go inside to find out more about this Christian faith actually brought her to the porch of the little Gospel Hall, but she couldn't manage to step over the threshold! It was at this point that Meg actually prayed to God, saying "God, if you are real, and you really want me to go inside, you will have to send someone to fetch me in!"

Almost immediately, the door opened, and a 'surprised' man stepped out and invited her to come in! She miraculously found a seat right by her friend, Lois, and sat through the meeting, as everyone made her very welcome. However, once the meeting finished, she tried to escape but saw some people she knew walking on the pavement outside and she didn't want to meet them as she was embarrassed to find herself 'in tears'. So she turned round and went to the side of the Hall, thinking 'I will go out through the gate at the back, but there wasn't a gate at the back!' I think at this point someone called her back into the building again – maybe to have a cup of tea and a talk with them.

As time went on, Meg's interest in God increased and she started to read His Word the Bible and to attend Burberry Hall and became a real practising Christian.

It also seemed that the local pub started to lose its attraction for her, as she now had other interests. One day, she felt that this God, who had become her Friend, was telling her that she no longer needed to smoke cigarettes, so she went outside her little home, and threw all her cigarettes away over the hedge! She had turned her back completely on her old way of life, as she was now a member of God's family! Now He has taken her safely into His Heavenly Home where she can enjoy His Presence for ever.