

## **ELISABETH MARY VERE DENNING 1915 – 2015**

Elisabeth was born in Derbyshire on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1915, where her father was a GP until enlisting and serving in France in 1916. After the war he took on his father's practice in London. Elisabeth attended the city of London School from the age of 5 until 8, and then she became a pupil at Portpool School, Spenser road Birchington.

In 1928 her parents moved to Birchington where her father had a house built in Alpha Road, and worked in General Practice until his retirement. Elisabeth went to Abbotsford School in Broadstairs, where she gained her Matriculation and thence to Bedford College at the University of London. He she gained an Honours degree in Science at the age of 21. She made teaching her career at various Girls' boarding Schools, until she returned to Birchington to help her sister Joan look after their elderly mother. During this time she taught at Clarendon House Girls' Grammar school at Ramsgate.

She always attended All Saints Church Birchington from childhood, but when the family moved down permanently down to St Mildred's Avenue, they started attending St Thomas's Church (built in 1932), not far from her new home.

Hers was a life of Faith in action – a person of deep conviction, not averse to progress, but who found difficulty in accepting women Priests – and especially women Bishops. However, during many discussions on these subjects she clearly showed a person of faith and understanding who was willing to listen to other's viewpoints. She was never afraid to give her opinion, but always willing to hear what other had to say.

Over the last 15 years there is hardly a small corner of Theology, Education or Politics that we have not explored. But always, her love of God's creation and creatures shone through. She will be so missed, but she has left a wonderful and lasting legacy though the lives of so many girls that she has taught and enthused.

Adieu, Elisabeth – may you rest in the Sleep of Peace, Amen

Rev. Don Witts, Vicar of All Saints and St Thomas, Birchington  
24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017