

## Memories of Elstow Bunyan Meeting

*My sister and I were born and grew up in the village of Elstow attending both Elstow Lower School and Elstow Bunyan Meeting. We lived in the cottages in West End, Elstow with our parents Winifred ( Win ) Sharp nee Pestell and Herbert Sharp. Our grandparents Harold and Daisy Pestell lived in the same row of cottages all their lives. Harold worked on the farm in West End for most of his working life.*

*Harold and Daisy attended Elstow Bunyan Meeting twice every Sunday. They were the first couple to be married in the chapel. Harold was also a church steward, we can remember him standing at the door to welcome people in and taking the collection. Mr Circuit was the organist during this time. Mr E.P. Rose donated money when the church was built and also the stained glass window at the back of the church in memory of his wife.*

*Daisy and Win were also active members of the mothers group and I can remember going on the trips to Clacton.*

*I was christened in 1946 and my sister Lynne in the 50's in the chapel.*

*We both attended Sunday School for many years and have many happy memories. The membership was large and special services especially the Sunday School anniversary filled the chapel. Mr Percy Townsend was the Sunday School Superintendent during this time and Miss Rose used to play the piano. We also remember enjoying our annual trips to Wickstead Park.*

*In 1964 I became a church member along with my friend Sheila Goff.*

*1967 Derek and I were married in the chapel by Rev. Margaret Knee*

*1972 Robert and Lynne were married in the chapel by Rev. Crowe*

*During the 70's my three daughters were also christened in the chapel when Rev. Margaret Knee returned for these occasions.*