

A Celebration of the Life of

# **Barbara Edith Joan Green**

13 November 1952 – 15 December 2024

8 January 2025, Maple Park Crematorium

Celebrant: Rachel Mears



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Barbara was born on the 13th November 1952 in Ripon. Her Mum and Dad, Joan and Eric were already proud parents of Sylvia, Freddie, Dot, Tricia, and Eric, and following Barbara came Brian and lastly Diane, who sadly died as still born baby. Today we also pay our respects to Barbara's parents and siblings, all of whom are Barbara cared for and grieved for on their deaths.

With such a large family Eric and Joan were no doubt thrilled to move into 18 Beech Road, Ripon, when it was first built in the late 1950s, and Barbara lived there for the rest of her life – a true family house. As a girl Barbara will have got used to a busy household, taking her turn with chores, no doubt getting teased sometimes, sharing the family jokes and often playing out. At this time the house was towards the edge of Ripon, on a corner plot with a decent sized garden and overlooking fields and the orchard of the big house, now converted to Long Meadow care home.

Hers was a hard working family, and as they grew the siblings followed their parents into local industries, with many of the women working in the Mending Rooms. There were days out and short vacations; with an old camper van and caravan being towed to Masham Steam Rally, Redcar and into the Yorkshire countryside for short breaks and good family times. As Barbara's nieces and nephew joined the family these trips out became even more epic adventures.

After leaving school Barbara worked at Buxted Chicken Factory on the production line, sensibly finding work less than a mile from home. She did not marry, although Diane and Karen have memories of possible fiancé. As a young woman Barbara enjoyed a social life in the tea rooms and dance halls with her peers in Ripon. She also enjoyed the camaraderie of the factory floor and was always up for the laughs and nights out at the social club. But she was not flighty or self-centred. She cared for her Grandma, Dolly, Dad, Eric and Mum, Joan as they aged and fell ill, and helped to bring up her nephew and niece, Paul and Sharon.

Barbara was a home-bird, and when the factory closed its doors in 1992, her choice was to take on the running of the family home. She lived there with her siblings Eric, Tricia and Freddie for the rest of their lives. She became adept at cooking for the masses, babysitting the next generation and as they grew up teasing them as teenagers and taking pride in their achievements and families. She loved a family barbecue, and was partial to lager and lime, or something a little stronger. She is also remembered for baking a fine quiche.

Christmases were big family affairs, providing the book end to each year. Barbara loved decorating the house, and hosting Christmas dinner. She enjoyed the family traditions of visiting Leeds Market for Christmas shopping, taking in breakfast in a greasy spoon cafe and returning home laden with gifts and seasonal treats.

Barbara would have said that her family included their many pets. She was a dog lover, and amongst many canine friends to bless her life she was particularly fond of her whippet Trixie. She has passed this love of dogs on, perhaps most obviously to her

niece Karen, who tells me she currently has 5, including her very favourites the Jack Russels!

As her responsibilities eased Barbara loved her days out with family members, who returned the care she had shown them throughout their lives. Days out to Catterick, the coast and Flamingo land were always to be looked forward to. But even simply sharing a shopping trip provided a chance to catch up with each other and find pleasure in everyday life.

Barbara found comfort and joy in simple things, a nice cardigan or pair of slippers for Christmas. A night in watching Downtown Abbey, Heartbeat or a good family Christmas film were times to be treasured. She once ventured to Spain for a holiday with Tricia, Paul, Sharon and Karen, but mostly stayed closer to home.

Barbara was one of the women who lived their lives caring for others, one of those women that history sometimes overlooks, but one of those women to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude. She was an essential part of the Ripon community. She was like glue in her family. Keeping home and carrying family memories and traditions and passing on a sense of family identity to the next generation.