

Introduction – Graham Hooke

That hymn (O Love that wilt not let me go), along with the first one we sang, Love Divine, became one of Mum's favourite hymns, 70 years ago, back in 1948. It was then, aged 23, that she went through one of the worst and yet one of the best experiences of her life.

She was a single young lady, expecting a baby; something which was traumatic and shocking in those post war years. She went to a place called Birdhurst to have her baby. There she was looked after by the staff and introduced to Jesus. We'll hear more from Kath & Beth in the Eulogy later.

Those of you who come to Lighthouse (weekly group for the Elderly at The Well Church, Ansdell) here may remember her talking about her experience so eloquently just two or three years ago. In a time of pain and sorrow she was filled with joy and made a new start to her life, following Jesus.

She has kept this card in her Bible ever since. It's a poem and it was given her by the matron at Christmas 1948.

Poem – read by Ruth Hooke

Unwaning Treasure

Midst all the things which change and pass and perish,
The blessings which so oft seem growing dim,
How good it is to calmly, truly cherish
The treasure which is ours in having Him.

His love unchanged throughout the years abideth,
When other loves have changed or passed away;
No aching, breaking heart in Him confideth
But finds its night of sorrow turned to day.

His care - His wondrous care, is wrapped around us;
Nor grows He weary though we oft-times fall:
His mercies, like His mercy, they surround us;
He bends a listening ear whene'er we call.

Ah yes, we have in Him unwaning treasure,
Forgiveness, love, compassion, matchless grace;
May it be ours to give Him back some pleasure,
As daily in His will our steps we trace.

J Danson Smith

Christmas 1948
With love and best wishes
and may your first Christmas in Hospital be filled with a sense of His Presence.
From
J Gainor (Matron)

Mum's note:

This from Matron at Birdhurst Lodge S Croydon where Rowan was born.