

Record of Remembrance for Barbara Molland (7th February 1928 to 17th April 2019)

(Information for this Record has been provided by Judith Atkinson of Oxford Meeting, Janie Cottis of Farringdon Local Meeting, Judith Badman of Great Malvern Local Meeting and Richard Molland)

'My name is Barbara Molland. It rhymes with Holland, but begins with M'. This is how Barbara sometimes introduced herself – and it was always a pleasure to talk to her.

She was born Barbara Loveday Moyses, one of two daughters of Bill and Olive, in Feock, Cornwall on 7th February 1928. After reading English at Bedford College, London, she taught in both primary and secondary schools in Somerset.

Barbara and Ralph met in 1947 and were married on 19th March 1948. Ralph worked for many years for Clarks, the Quaker shoemaking company, finally becoming a senior executive for the firm. Their children, Clare, Jane and Richard, describe a happy upbringing. Barbara and Ralph were eventually grandparents to seven children and great grandparents to six

In 1959 Barbara became a member of the Society of Friends in Street by conviction and served both as an Elder and as Clerk to Preparative and Monthly Meetings (as they were then known). Judith Badman, formerly of Street and currently a member of Worcester Area Meeting, remembers Barbara as active in Street Meeting and in the wider community. Her son Richard describes her as a 'lovely, gentle person, who touched all of us', qualities which were also recognised by Oxford Friends.

Arriving in Oxford in the late eighties, Barbara and Ralph made a huge contribution to Oxford Local Meeting and to Oxford and Swindon Monthly Meeting, as it then was. Ralph had served at Friends' House as clerk to the newly instituted Sufferings Committee and continued in this role after moving to Oxford. He also served as an Elder in Oxford Meeting.

On retirement, they moved first back to Cornwall and then to Pegasus Grange, a sheltered facility in Oxford. Although they transferred their membership to Oxford and Swindon, they retained close links with Friends in Street. Before leaving Somerset, they had talked with Somerset Friends about their funeral plans and their wish to be buried in the Street Friends' burial ground. It was agreed that, given their contributions to the Street Meeting, it would be in right ordering for this to happen, a decision which meant a lot to both Barbara and Ralph

Within a short time of arriving in Oxford, Barbara became an Overseer and Judith Atkinson had the privilege of serving with her in the OX1 area of the city. She was extremely good at remembering the names and circumstances of Friends. Using the large common room at Pegasus Grange, we instituted an annual tea party and Barbara was characteristically concerned to make this a really welcoming occasion. After some years of active service in Oxford Meeting and with increasing frailty, Barbara and Ralph decided they needed a higher level of care, which could be provided by Richmond Village. Their goodbye party, held in Pegasus Grange, was attended by Friends from all over Oxford

Janie Cottis recalls that, after their move, Ralph and Barbara worshipped in Faringdon Meeting for a while. Neither could hear very well, but Ralph said he loved to feel the stillness of the meeting. Later, when Ralph's mobility decreased further, they hosted a monthly meeting for worship in their flat. The space was small, but there was room for Tim Eccles, David Saunderson, John and Janie. Janie describes this as a very special time.

Ralph died in late 2016 and was buried, as planned, in the Friends' Burial ground in Street on 1st February 2017. As Barbara's dementia progressed, she moved to a quiet retirement home on the edge of Dartmore. She died there in her sleep on 17th April 2019, but, as requested, her funeral and burial took place in Street on 14th May 2019