In John’s words …

“I saw a notice about the Bradwell Festival and thought you might be interested in this memory of ours.

In June 1961 I was working for a short time at the nuclear power station which then was under construction at Bradwell. I was staying in some lodgings in the village there. The landlady mentioned the Diocesan Pilgrimage which would shortly be taking place to the old chapel and asked if I would like to help her, so I volunteered to be on the book-stall. It was a very pleasant day and while at the book-stall I couldn’t help noticing a very attractive young lady looking at what we were selling. A short time later I saw her sitting on her own on the grass having a picnic lunch, and as I had not eaten by then I approached her and remember saying something like –  “Are you on your own, may I join you while I eat my sandwiches?” To which she agreed, and as they say -- “the rest is history”!

Brenda’s version is also interesting. At the time she was living with her parents in Arlington Road and had finished a teacher training course at the Hockerill College in Bishop’s Stortford the year before. The day of the Bradwell Pilgrimage was also the day of the Hockerill Old Students Association annual reunion, and Brenda set off from home on her Lambretta not having decided which event to go to. Finally she reached a fork in the road where she had to make a decision which way to go, and fortunately (!) decided to go to the Pilgrimage.

We have been relying on God’s guidance for a long time and our pilgrimage together has led us all over the world.

After our wedding we lived in Somerset for some time, where our 2 daughters were born, then we lived in Nairobi, Kenya, for 12 ½  years where I was working for the East African  Power and Lighting Co. as an engineer, and our son was born in Nairobi. Then a 2-year spell working in England, followed by nearly 17 years working in a large power and desalination station in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

By the time I finished working there our 3 children, all married, had emigrated to Australia, so it was not difficult for us to decide to move here rather than return to England. We have now been here for 18 years, and with 3 children and 6 grandchildren we spend our time visiting them in Victoria and Western Australia. Fortunately our son lives in Brisbane, so we see quite a lot of him.

Our pilgrimage is continuing, but we think it is unlikely that we will come to England again (21 hours of flying is enough for anyone!) even though I have two sisters and Brenda has a brother in Southend. We are active members of our church, and always look back thankfully on all that has happened to us since 11th August 1962 in your church.”

August 2017