

Obituary for E Ruth Peskett

Ruth was born on 21st February 1921 as Edith Ruth Earle. She was a person of small stature and from a small family; she was an only child as were both her parents.

Despite her diminutive size she did many big things during her 88 years. After training as a social worker she committed her life to serv God in mission. She joined BCMS, trained at Dalton House (1946-1948) and was designated in her mid twenties to go to China.

Ruth Earle arrived in South China, not far from the Vietnamese border, at one of the most tumultuous times in its history. One of the most significant traumas was to be interrogated in Mandarin Chinese by the Communist authorities about the missionary activities of the group in Nanning; her Chinese skills were limited and geared towards Cantonese.

Amongst others Ruth was in the team with Osmund and Freda Peskett. All were forced to leave China in 1951 after Communist victory and Ruth was asked to help care for the Peskett family in Chadderton due to Dr Freda's illhealth. Some time after Freda's death Ruth found herself as Osmund's wife and mother of 3 young children who were not hers at the age of 32. From Chadderton she and the family moved to Tonbridge, Tanzania (1965-1967), St Keverne, Devoran and Kea and finally to Exeter where she was a staunch member of St Leonard's Church.

Ruth was known by all as a good homemaker, household organiser, hostess, cook, seamstress, embroiderer, gardener, dog carer and much more. She prayed regularly for the family throughout her married and widowed life. She moved to a home in Otterton so as not to be a burden to the family.

Underlying her whole life was her steady faith and trust in the One to whom she had committed her life as a young person. She died on 27th November 2009. Her step son Howard served on the Crosslinks General Council and Liz is a regular at the Crosslinks Autumn Conference.