

10/12/2013

Irene Carr



Irene was married to Arthur E. Carr who was the Chief of the Staff of The Salvation Army from 1974 to 1977. Irene and Arthur moved into The Drive, Beckenham at the end of WW2 with their three sons, Wesley, Gordon (mentioned elsewhere in this website) and Howard. On Sundays the Carr family walked to the Salvation Army Hall in Maple Road, Penge.

Wesley was born in 1941 and educated at Dulwich College before going to Oxford. He was the Dean at Westminster Abbey from 1997 to 2006. During that time he organised the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales on 6 September 1997. In 2002 he officiated at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Howard went to Beckenham County School and thence to Wye College which prepared him for a career in agriculture. While at the County School he was leader of the School Orchestra [and his daughter, Rhuti, continues the family's music tradition. In addition to her many other

engagements, she is Principal Oboe for the Handel Collection based at St Stephen Walbrook, near Cannon Street Station].

Irene served the Salvation Army for 48 years where she was known as 'Mrs Commissioner Carr'. In the concert March 2013 Concert she was remembered by the Lewisham Concert Band playing *Share my Yoke* composed by fellow Salvationist Major Joy Webb. Joy remembers Irene as a lady of great ability and charm who was a great help when Joy "as a young Salvation Army officer was facing great challenges by being thrust into the search light of immense media attention with the advent of *Joy Strings* in 1964."

She told Cliff Watkins that *Share My Yolk* "has been featured and individually recorded by almost all the Premier bands in the USA and Great Britain, including those in the Military". It had begun as a song with lyrics inspired from scripture – "the words of Jesus that have been enshrined in our minds from Handel's wonderful *Messiah*".

Joy told Cliff that "I am sorry I cannot be at the concert but I hope it will a fitting tribute to all the women featured and especially Commissioner Irene Carr".