



Our family moved from Isleworth into Arundel Avenue in 1931, when I was three years old and my brother Fred, seven. There were no houses behind us then, only an old golf course, and my earliest memory is of Fred and some pals lighting a bonfire in one of the bunkers and sending me indoors to collect potatoes to roast. I was given the tiniest potato - and to this day it was the most delicious I ever tasted! Suddenly, an irate figure joined us – that of my mother – and the party, and bonfire, quickly came to an end!

Muriel



Boys would play marbles or conkers, but more often wide games such as Cowboys and Indians or Cops and Robbers. And, of course, football – though I could never tell one end of a ball from the other!

Peter



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Hardly anyone had cars, so children could play in the empty streets. Girls spent hours skipping – on their own or in groups – or playing throwing and catching games with a tennis ball – with all sorts of rules and rhymes. Fivestones was another favourite – trying to throw and catch small cubes on the back of your hand. And Cat's Cradle – manipulating yarn wound round your fingers. And, of course, Hopscotch, with numbers chalked on the pavement.

Jeanne



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Dad made me a model farm with lots of lead animals – isn't lead poisonous?! – and a wooden castle with lead soldiers. I had Dinky cars, and an electric train set when I was older – but I think Dad enjoyed that more than I did! I had games like Chinese Chequers and Solitaire, but my favourite hobby was reading.

Peter



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We started Sunday School at Morden Baptist Church, but when our neighbour, Mr Barber, told us that a new Methodist church (*below*) was about to open in Martin Way with COLOURED CHAIRS for the Sunday School children, the temptation to switch loyalties was too great! My brother was a faithful member of the Methodist church for the rest of his life, marrying Doreen, a fellow member of the Youth Group, and bringing up their children, Bill and Julia, to love and serve the Lord.

Muriel



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We didn't have a lot of toys. Most of our toys fitted into a cupboard Dad built into the recess in the Dining Room – about 3 foot wide, two foot high, and 1 foot deep – though my doll's pram was too big for the cupboard. We had games like Monopoly. And Mum taught me how to knit, and I enjoyed embroidery and smocking when I was older.

Jeanne



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My parents would take us to St James's church with them. I became a choir boy there and we were paid a half crown every three months. As most of my friends attended Hillcross Sunday school I left St James and joined Hillcross Sunday school. This was the beginning of my being moulded into the Morden parish evangelical style of worship. As I look back now I can I think see where God was starting to mould me into the direction he was preparing me for. In my middle teens I became a Christian by accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. I joined YPF at St Lawrence. I was confirmed when I was 17 and the love of my life Margaret was also confirmed at the same service or though at that time we did not know each other. We met at 20 Club at Emmanuel where the new curate Peter Dawson was the curate in charge. Margaret and I were engaged on 11 September 1956 and married on 24 May 1958 at St Lawrence Church.

Richard



After the War I no longer attended Church regularly, but when Dr Billy Graham came to London a Christian friend from my old school invited me to attend one of his meetings. I was very moved by it, but did not "go forward". However, when I heard that Canon Livermore was holding Confirmation classes at St Lawrence Church, I went along. The young people there were very friendly, and I soon realised they had something that I didn't, and which I would like. Of course, this "something" was the Lord Jesus, and, thankfully, He became my Saviour too. I joined St Martin's when it opened in 1957.

Muriel

