



# Crudwell Strawberry Fayre Window 2008

## 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary 2008

In the early peace which followed the 2nd world war, Pat, a young girl from Lymington married an American serviceman and emigrated to Indianapolis, USA. They raised a family but sadly became estranged.

Pat found enormous fellowship within the congregation of Christ Church Cathedral in the city. Wanting to reciprocate in some way, Pat, her British background, conceived the idea of a Strawberry Festival to be held in the centre of Indianapolis. It has become a regular institution for over 40 years, and Pat received a civis honour prior to her death.

Pat's younger sister, Christine, married and raised a family in the UK. With her husband, they became involved in their community in particular their church. It is here that these two stories merge.

When Christine's family moved to Crudwell her husband became Church Warden at All Saints Church. Early in the 1980's, their PCC was searching for funding/grant aid towards the cost of stripping and retiling the North Aisle roof. During dialogue and visits to the USA, Christine began to realise the possibility of financial help from Pat's church.

In short, prayers were answered, a successful application resulted in a generous grant of \$6000 from Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis.

A gentle suggestion accompanied the grant, that the recipients might try to match the grant with local fund raising! Christine's reaction was immediate and the Crudwell Strawberry Fayre was born. It started life as the Crudwell Festival in 1988 which raised £3220 for the church roof fund. This weekend included for the first time, Strawberry Fayre, and despite much rainfall, Crudwell residents and visitors began their addition to strawberries and cream, not forgetting shortbread, baked using the Indianapolis recipe. This united the village, working together for the church and fuelling fellowship throughout.

**This window is dedicated to the two sisters for their devotion to their faith and their community.**

**Source:** Crudwell All Saints 2008

