

SHARED ROOTS IN FAITH

Interview by Hannah Waring

Pam's East End Story

Pam moved to the East End when she was 21, in 1954, just as the character of the East End began to change and London truly became multicultural.

As a young girl...

"I went to Sunday school, because my sister was the Sunday school teacher, there is a big difference between us because the war came between us, there's fifteen years difference, so she used to drag me." "I stayed there until I was most probably about 11, then I rebelled."

Pam's children...

"My boys were not christened, because they were boys. My daughter was because it didn't matter, because of the providence they set about the male and the female." "The children grew up in that mix, in the sense that, they knew what the mosque was and they knew what the church was."

Racism...

"The community were together. So they all grew up together, there wasn't a religious divide. I think it only started at a later stage. It's not so much a religious as a cultural divide." "Oh people said things to me for being married to somebody who was black. But it didn't have a religious kind of thing; it was more a race issue."



St Peter's Church, at St Peter's Avenue

Marriage

"I married a Muslim man, who was also black, so you can imagine what kind of life we had. Back then there were only about 3 black people let alone 3 Muslims."



The National Front and their message of racial hatred

Pam as a Christian today...

"I didn't go back to church until I had to get my daughter into Raines school, which was a Church of England school. You had to go to church at the time and the vicar had to sign a letter saying "all the family were church-goers", and you had to go at least a year before. So I had an ulterior motive, I went when she was 8 and now she's 26 and I'm still going to St. Peter's, so it sort of stayed."

Bethnal
Green