I hope you like our story of how love conquered all, especially religion. I met my wonderful Peter in 1958 at a friend’s birthday party we liked each other straight away and enjoyed the same sort of things, mainly dancing, which Peter was really good at, and I loved dancing with him. Also we enjoyed going to the cinema and going to shows and concerts. We both also liked ice skating.

Peter was at college when I first met him, and he was very clever, and sailed through his exams to get his qualifications as an electrician. He always had a job and worked very hard all his life. First looking after me although I worked at Boots, the Chemists, I didn’t earn very much money. But Peter was always so generous to me and buying me things even though I was always asking him not to.

We both had a similar childhood, me losing my Mother when I was eight years old and Peter losing his Father when he was thirteen years old. I think this is what gave us the need to have a close happy family and that is what we eventually had. We knew we were meant for each other and got engaged in 1960. But then things didn’t go smoothly. I haven’t mentioned but I am a Roman Catholic went to a very strict Catholic school where I was taught by nuns and it was always thought I would get married in a Catholic church. My Mother and Father were Irish Catholics, my Mother very stout. But Peter was Church of England. But as he loved me he was happy to get married in a Catholic church. So we went to see the priest to arrange the marriage but he was not very happy as mixed marriages, as they were called then, were not very acceptable. But he said it would be alright if Peter had six lessons in the Catholic Faith which Peter agreed to. But then he said we both had to sign to say we would bring up any children we had in the Catholic Faith and neither of us agreed with that. We thought they should make up their own minds when they were old enough.

So we went home to see my father because we both still lived at home, me with my Father and Peter with his Mother. My Father said he would have to give his blessing once we got married in a church. So we went tout to our local Church of England and I couldn’t have been made more welcome. We had a wonderful wedding on 19th August 1961. We had two wonderful sons, five lovely Grandchildren, three boys and two girls. They were all christened in the Church of England. But Peter and I never talked about religion and it was never an issue. Sometimes just for fun Peter would say we were the original orange and green. But we loved each other too much to let religion get in the way of our happiness.

But in 2008 my wonderful Peter was diagnosed with cancer. We went back to our Church of England and found comfort in that. It was the same church where both of our sons were married, our Granchildren christened, and Peter and I renewed our vows on our 49th wedding anniversary. We had always planned to do it on our 50th but we didn’t quite make it.

Peter passed away five months before it but we had such a wonderful day with all our fantastic family. It was such a great comfort to us and lots of our friends. I’m just so sorry Peter could not have been here to see our two little Great Grandsons, but I know he will be looking down on us and looking after his family as he always has.

So I said at the beginning, true love can conquer all.