

A Service to Remember and Celebrate the Life of [REDACTED], Westerleigh Crematorium

Entry Music: Michael Jackson - 'You Are Not Alone'

Introduction and Opening Words

Good afternoon, my name is Steve Wood. I thank you for coming together today, and offer you all a very warm welcome as we unite now in love and friendship, not only to say farewell but more importantly to honour, celebrate and pay tribute to the life of [REDACTED]

You have all been on a journey in which you have had to face the devastating fact of losing someone so dear & so young. A journey in which you have had to confront reality and to accept the outcome, one in which you have had to find courage and strength, I am certain you have experienced every possible emotion. A journey that has, sorrowfully, led us here to today. Each person here today is facing their own journey of grief & Loss, in remembering the life that was [REDACTED]. For the family, a different one from her friends, that does not decry the fact that we are here to say to our physical goodbyes today, but in our hearts [REDACTED] will always be here.

The death of somebody we love is always a tragedy. We feel a great range of emotions – anger, pain, hurt, and sorrow. Today we grieve, Grief one of the hardest emotions that we can ever experience. The passing of a young person causes the greatest shock and the deepest of sadness. It is not in the natural order of things; it leaves us feeling literally as if our hearts are broken. But sometimes when a person we love & care for faces any sort of pain or suffering, then that bereavement can appear more as a release, freeing them from any further pain.

Recently I sat with [REDACTED] family. It was a time in which they shared their precious memories with me, sometimes through laughter and sometimes through tears but mostly through their love and affection for her. After that meeting, through the subsequent messages I received from family and friends, I have been left with a very clear impression of the kind of person [REDACTED] is. I say **is**, because she is still very much part of your life, just because she is not here does not mean we cannot include her in our thoughts & hearts. Whilst writing this tribute & based on everything I have been told about [REDACTED], I was reminded once again of what a great honour it is for me to be asked to stand here before you today. So, I invite you now to listen as [REDACTED] family and friends, through me, pay tribute to her life and honours her memory.

[REDACTED] passed away at her Mum's home on the 15th July at the age of 37. Today our love and thoughts go out to all of you who have been touched by [REDACTED] in life and in death. We think especially of her husband [REDACTED], her parents [REDACTED], her sister [REDACTED], and her good friend [REDACTED]. We want you to know that we are here today to support you in your grief and to show you that love, and friendship will continue to sustain you in the coming weeks, months and years ahead.

Some things cannot be taken away: the feeling of being loved, Cherished and the experience of friendship. Those are the bonds that are closely tied & cannot be separated. whilst we are here today-to celebrate [REDACTED] life, it is still very important to acknowledge the grief that [REDACTED] passing has left, a gap in so many people's lives, which can never be replaced. Grieving is important, it is the hard and the painful part of the healing process, Whilst the pain of losing one so young will never cease, it with time ease, as a cut heals, so does the heart, yet a scar remains to remind us of that time.

This service is a time where you can safely let your tears flow. Tears are a normal and a natural reaction to loss, if the memory of [REDACTED] also makes you smile, then please smile for it is your own unique and personal memories that will carry you through these difficult times, whilst one does not expect to hear laughter on a day such as this, if you wish to laugh at a memory that you shared with [REDACTED], or her family please laugh, then [REDACTED] will be in your hearts forever.

The separateness and uniqueness of each human life is the basis of our grief in bereavement. looking at the world as a whole, there will never be another [REDACTED], she still lives on in your memories. Though no longer a visible part of our lives, she will remain a member of your family through the influence she has had on you and the special part she played in your lives. We know that the value of life consists in living it and living it well. [REDACTED] has been a delight and comfort to others and has derived fulfilment and satisfaction from so doing, in this way, [REDACTED] has brought value and meaning to not her life but to many others as well.

The service here today is important, it is a day for memories & will be remembered for many reasons. A day to celebrate the life that is [REDACTED] to pay our respects, to pay tribute to [REDACTED] and say a thank you for being a part of her life, to a woman who was a wonderful wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. This is a special day in which you share some time with others who also knew and loved [REDACTED] a day to share those memories of your time with her, to laugh, to love to shed a tear when that emotion takes you.

The family have asked that I read a poem that they received from friends (**do you want me to name the people who sent you the poem?**) and which brought them much comfort. The poem is 'Her Journey's Just Begun'

Poem: Her Journey's Just Begun (Author Unknown)

Don't think of her as gone away
her journey's just begun...
Life holds so many facets,
this earth is only one.

Just think of her as resting
from the sorrows and the tears,
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days or years.

Think how she must be wishing
that we could know today,
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched,
for nothing loved is ever lost
and she was loved so much.

Remembering [REDACTED]: Eulogy

To eulogise about somebody is to speak of them, so I want to tell you something **that was the** life of [REDACTED] was born on 10th February 1982, the youngest child of [REDACTED] and little sister to [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] was described to me as 'a lovely little girl.' Mad about animals – especially horses and dogs. So keen was she on dogs that she used to walk her neighbour, Mrs Wilmott's dog, until the arrival of the family dog. Then when she left home, [REDACTED] got her own dog - Gismo.

[REDACTED] enjoyed a happy childhood in the fold of her family, loving their family holidays and weekends spent on the boats at Weymouth, always out and about and always having lots of fun.

Early school life for [REDACTED] was spent at Park Primary School, moving on to secondary school at Kingsfield. She was a sensible teenager but apparently that didn't stop her having the odd party whilst her parents were away.

[REDACTED] had a lot of friends when she was younger, and when she started Kingsfield school she met [REDACTED], who became a lifelong friend. They both shared a love of Horse + Pony magazine and their rooms were covered in horse pictures. They'd also spend hours at Grimsbury farm collecting horse hair from the fences around the fields.

They would sometimes go back to [REDACTED] parents' house and [REDACTED] would always have a cheese sandwich whilst [REDACTED]'s cats would try and climb onto her lap (the cats must have known she was a dog person, and were just trying to wind her up).

As they got older they would venture off for nights out in town. When getting a taxi home together, they would take it in turns to get dropped off first. Their rule was that when you were the last to be dropped off you had to one-ring the other's house phone (yes, this was pre-mobile days). [REDACTED] would always forget to call Hayley so to remind her [REDACTED] would put a penny into [REDACTED] hand so when she got back home she would think about the penny and then it would remind her to call.

[REDACTED] completed her education at Catering College where she trained to be a Chef. Her first job on leaving college was at Aardman Animation, a job that she loved so much she stayed there for twenty years – literally the rest of her life. [REDACTED] family have asked me to convey their gratitude to Aardman Animation for their kind considerations for [REDACTED] during her illness.

It was whilst working at Aardman Animation that [REDACTED] met the man who was to become her husband – [REDACTED] said he wore [REDACTED] down into going out with him by constantly asking 'will you go out with me?' She gave up and eventually said yes. [REDACTED] may have been persistent with his requests initially, but once they were together [REDACTED] apparently gave up thinking [REDACTED] would ever propose. However, he did, and the couple were married on 5th September 2013.

[REDACTED] passion for horses and dogs remained with her throughout her life. She loved her times at the stables with her sister [REDACTED] and her trusty dog Gismo. Recently enjoying being a member of the Riding Club with her horse Pig. She enjoyed water parks and theme parks. [REDACTED] loved her holidays - Dubai with husband [REDACTED]. Despite her sweet nature, one of [REDACTED]'s passions was for 'horror', be that the scariest rides at theme parks or settling down to watch a good horror movie.

As youngsters [REDACTED] would think about their future and had planned that when they'd grown to become little old ladies, they could get a bungalow together. This could be filled with lots of cats for [REDACTED] and lots of dogs for [REDACTED]. They decided that they would also shout at any pesky kids that chose to sit on their garden wall!

They'd always act silly together, on their various holiday and adventures. Although the days would generally revolved about food and what their next meal would be.

Despite being all of 5 foot 2, [REDACTED] certainly had an appetite for food (in fact, the only time she got angry was when she was hungry!). One particular example of her voracious appetite was in Dubai one year. [REDACTED] had met his parents and [REDACTED] in a restaurant. [REDACTED] ordered what can only be described as a Guinness Book of Record-worthy roast chicken lunch – it was huge. She pretty much disappeared from view behind this mountain of food. [REDACTED] father remarked how she'd never manage to get through it (a rookie mistake on his part). However, in all of about ten minutes, she re-appeared into view from behind an empty plate (although did spend the rest of the day asleep on a sun lounger).

Moment for Reflection

I know that you will each have your own personal and unique memories of times that you spent with [REDACTED], so we are now going to pause for a moment of quiet reflection to give you each the chance to remember Kath in your own way, to bring back those memories of the time you spent with her, a moment to celebrate [REDACTED] in your own way, a quiet time to say you may no longer be in our sight, but you will never be out of our hearts.

Reflection music: Eva Cassidy - 'Over The Rainbow'

Committal:

We have now come to the part of the service where we have to say our farewells to [REDACTED]. The family has asked for the curtains to remain open

Please stand.

Tenderly, reverently & with a heavy heart, we say farewell to [REDACTED] a life lived, a family cherished, a friend never forgotten. We are all lucky to have been in [REDACTED] life, some more lucky than others. We are glad we saw your face, felt the warmth of your smile, the touch of your hand, the sound of your voice.

[REDACTED], we honour the way you lived your life, we honour your character and personality and most of all we honour the love and friendship you gave to your family and friends.

Your life has enriched and enhanced our own. We will cherish you forever; you will live in our hearts for all of eternity.

As we prepare to leave you now, may your journey be in gentleness and in peace.

Please be seated

Closing Words

[REDACTED], a sweet and popular woman, she was kind and genuine, with a happy demeanour, always smiling. She was so positive that she and [REDACTED] would even find things to giggle about on a trip to chemotherapy.

[REDACTED] family say that they are so proud of the way she coped with her illness over the past five years, always positive and never moaning about anything. They are proud of the person that [REDACTED] was, knowing that everyone loved her, no one would have a bad word to say about her.

[REDACTED] was a wonderful, loving Wife, daughter, sister & aunty she will be greatly treasured by all her family. They will miss everything about her, her sweet personality, her positivity, and the way she could light up a room with her smile. Now that she has gone, [REDACTED] family's feelings can be summed up in one word - devastated.

Right now, your mind will be clouded with questions as to why [REDACTED] had to leave so soon. Perhaps as time passes these questions will never be fully answered. But I do hope that as time goes by it will be all of the wonderful memories you hold dear in your heart that come to the front of your mind and remind you that she was so much part of your life and how she influenced your life in the way that she did. I hope that all of you who knew and loved [REDACTED] can take some comfort from the fact that her life, albeit too short, was full and happy, that it is now her family that have to ensure the pain of her loss, her suffering has ended, she left us peacefully in her sleep with her Mum, and her beloved Gismo, at her side, knowing that she was loved and cherished by her family and friends.

We have come to the close of this celebration & tribute that is the life [REDACTED]. It has been a privilege and honour to have led this service.

Now, as we leave the chapel, [REDACTED] family will come and say their final farewells to her first, please give them a moment then follow them, they will meet you outside. (Is this an ok order for you? Or would you prefer me to ask everyone else to leave first so that you (close family) can be the last to leave?)

Thank you

Exit Music: The Temptations – ‘My Girl’