

REQUIEM MASS AND CELEBRATION

FOR THE LIFE OF

Stephen Gardiner

12th December 1958 - 10th June 2023



CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, BEESTON

AT 10.00 AM

FOLLOWED BY INTERMENT

AT BEESTON CEMETERY AT 11.30 AM

Friday 30th June 2023

Order of Service

Conducted by Father Christopher Thomas

Entrance Hymn Lord Of All Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Introduction and Opening Prayer

First Reading

Romans, Chapter 6: verses 3-4 and 8-9

Katie Isle

Responsorial Psalm

**R: If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil
would I fear, for you are with me.**

Gospel

John, Chapter 14: verses 1-6

Homily

Intercessions

read by Maddie, Cecily, Will, Alison and Kay

At the end of each intercession:

Lord, in your mercy.

R/ Hear our prayer.

Offertory Hymn

Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
 In purer lives Thy service find,
 In deeper reverence, praise,
 In deeper reverence, praise

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
 Beside the Syrian sea,
 The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
 Rise up and follow Thee,
 Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
 O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee
 The silence of eternity
 Interpreted by love!
 Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace,
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm,
O still, small voice of calm.

Eucharistic Prayer

Our Father

Communion Hymn

Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to His feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me His praise should sing.

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise Him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like, He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space.

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Praise with us the God of grace!

Eulogy
Chris Prokopyszyn

Final Prayers and Commendation

Final Hymn
Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark Satanic Mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my Arrows of desire!
Bring me my Spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.



The Life of Stephen Gardiner.

Stephen was born in Derby on 12th December 1958, the youngest of four children. He had a sister and two brothers. A much loved baby with blue eyes and a cloud of blonde hair. Within a few years he had metamorphosed into a much loved but irritating little brother who had to be minded by his big sister.

His education commenced briefly at St Philomena's Convent School, but when the family moved to Nottingham in 1964 he moved to St Theresa's Primary School in Aspley. There he met another blonde, blue eyed boy, called Stephen Willis. They became best friends and remained so for the rest of his life. He passed his eleven plus and went to The Becket RC Grammar School for boys. He passed a dozen O'levels without much effort, he enjoyed cross country running, and excelled at rowing. He was the stroke in the Four that represented England in Cork in 1976 in the National Rowing Championships.

However it was his lifelong friendships at the Beckett with Stephen Willis, Chris Prokopyszyn, Patrick Allinson, Nick Max, Aidan Goulding and Brendan McKeating that brought him immense pleasure throughout his life.

In 1975 the school became comprehensive and girls were admitted. More lifelong friendships blossomed with Kay Martin, Jayne Bates, Clare Connolly and of course Kathleen Carty. The pair started dating in the Upper Sixth and stopped studying, so they both had to resit their A'Levels. Steve went onto to read law at Newcastle on Tyne. After university he decided against a legal career and after working briefly in a building society he decided to go into management at Carter's Soft Drinks Company. In August 1987 he married Kathleen and although they both had full time jobs they soon started buying dilapidated houses and worked together at weekends renovating them.

In 1992 they took a year out to travel the world, visiting East Africa, India (where they trekked in the Himalayas), Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and finally spending two months exploring much of North America.

On his return Steve became self-employed. He devoted his time to property development and management of residential rentals including his father in laws portfolio. He spent much of his time on the farm at Trowell helping with paperwork and trying to manage Mick and his menagerie of animals. All of his diplomatic skills and ingenuity were put to use regularly when cattle escaped onto motorways or horses took off down highways or postmen were bitten by Alsatians and the authorities had to be persuaded prosecution was not in the public interest!!

Steve became astute at finding property bargains, the jewel in the crown being their marital home in a quarter acre site on Cow Lane. He designed the extension and managed the year-long refurbishment project. They both crafted the house into their dream home where they lived for 20 years. He spent many happy hours there entertaining family and friends into the wee small hours. Although he worked for himself he had the support of a loyal team of highly skilled contractors who over the decades themselves became true friends.

Sadly Stephen and Kathleen's marriage ended in 2012, however they remained good and close friends for the rest of his life. Steve maintained his close ties with his father in law Mick, the farm and the Carty family.



He loved Gardiner family gatherings, especially at Christmas with his parents or simply having dinner with John and Anne. The visits to Andy and Julie after a day picnicking at Henley, or new year when Dorothy and Peter came visiting with their children. He enjoyed those hours of family chat around the dining table and those long summer days languishing in the garden after a BBQ playing with his nieces and nephews. The weekend spent in Whitewell with all the family for his parent's golden wedding anniversary was very special to him. Him and John sledging down the hill with nieces piled on their backs and Molly the Jack Russell racing beside them on a snowy Bramcote Park has gone down in family lore.

Tragically in 2017 Steve was diagnosed with dementia. He bore his illness with incredible fortitude and courage. He made the most of the time he had left and with the support of Alison, Dorothy and Debbie he was able to stay in his own home until 2021. He also got to fulfil his dream of cruising in the Caribbean, and was able to visit Ireland again, spend numerous holidays in Norfolk, Cambridge, Derbyshire and Stamford.

The disease robbed him of his ability to read for long periods. This was a major loss as he had been a voracious reader since childhood. His passion was fantasy and science fiction. His favourites were Tolkien, Asimov, Prattchet and many more. He loved politics and current affairs and enjoyed many lively discussions around the kitchen table. His wit and repartee were legendary as were his moves on the dance floor. His sense of humour was not completely crushed by his dementia and it still sparked into life with a sardonic look through those pale blue eyes.

Stephen's suffering ceased on the morning of the tenth of June 2023, when he passed away with his sister Dorothy, her family and Kathleen by his side.



After Mass you are welcome to join the family for the burial at Beeston Cemetery.

The Gardiner and Nowak family would also like to invite you all for refreshments at Strelley Hall, Main Street, Strelley, Nottingham NG8 6PE.

Donations in memory of Stephen for
Dementia UK
may be sealed in the donation envelope
and placed in the box on leaving the service,
left online at
www.lymn.co.uk/obituaries
or by scanning the QR code below or sent care of

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