

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR THE LIFE OF

Doris Loretta Clarke



Wednesday 6 April 2022 | 11AM
Mansfield Road Baptist Church
Corner of Gregory Boulevard
Forest Fields, Nottingham

22 FEBRUARY 1935 - 25 FEBRUARY 2022

Order of service

Officiating - Bishop Fitzroy McFarlane

Entrance Song

The Goodness of God
(CeCe Winans)

Welcome and Introduction

By Bishop McFarlane

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8
Read by Sister Elaine Reid (Friend)

Prayer

By Bishop McFarlane

Hymn No. 1

The Old Rugged Cross

Scripture Reading

1st Corinthians 15: 51-57
Read by Natasha Brown (Granddaughter)

Eulogy

Tyehimba Nosakhere (Son)

Hymn No. 2

Blessed Assurance

Scripture Reading

Psalms 23
Read by Lilleth Johnson (Sister)



Order of service

Tribute

What my Grandma means to Me
Grand and Great Grandchildren

Tributes

Mr and Mrs Scott (Sister and Brother in Law)
David Willis (Brother)
Hyacinth Satchell (Niece)
Church Sisters

Poem

In Our Hearts by Rose M. De Leon
Read by Janet Clarke (Daughter)

Scripture Reading

Romans 8: 35 and 37-39
Read by Marcia Dawkins (Daughter)

Hymn No. 3

How Great Thou Art

Reflection and Closing Thoughts

By Bishop Mcfarlane

Exit Song

Unforgettable (Nat King Cole)

Pallbearers

Tyehimba Nosakhere (Son) Edward Dawkins (Grandson)
Andre Johnson (Grandson) Shaqil Uhuru (Grandson)
Marcus Willis (Nephew) Dave Willis (Nephew)





The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame,
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.

*And I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
And I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.*



Eulogy

Doris Loretta Willis was born on the 22nd February 1935 in David's Hill, St Andrew Jamaica. Doris was the fifth child of eight born to mother, Clara Victorine Smith affectionately known as Mama and father Exelee Willis known as Santa. David, Lilleth, and Gwendolyn are the remaining siblings, whilst Daniel, Hubert, Cecil, and Roy are deceased.

Early Life in Jamaica

Doris would be the first to say, "Education starts in the home." and to acknowledge the huge amount she learnt from her parents and older siblings in the family setting. Doris began her formal education at seven years old, attending Halls Delight School and St Joseph's Girls School, Kingston. Doris loved school but left, aged 13, to take care of her nephew and niece (Danny and Hyacinth) whom throughout the many years to come would show their endless gratitude. Although her academic potential was set aside at this point, Doris would show in later years that she never lost confidence in her own ability and her ultimate belief in grasping educational opportunities.

At the age of 17, Doris went to work at Zanes Tobacco factory and Cherio Bakery until she was 20. Doris had three children in Jamaica, Marcia (Gem), Yvette (Charmaine) and Janice, born 1961, before leaving for England as did many others to establish a better life for her family. The children remained in the care of her mother, but Doris could not settle in England without them.

England

Doris arrived in England on 13th April 1962 and first lived at Rothesay Avenue, Lenton, Nottingham. It was at Rothesay Avenue where she would make lifelong friendships with Noel and Glen Williams and Lucille Allen, who would also become Godparents to two of Doris's subsequent children Janet, born in 1963 and Paula her youngest child. Doris moved to Gedling Grove in 1964 and married James Clarke in 1966, after which Tyehimba (Wayne) was born in 1967 and Paula 1969. In 1970, Doris moved with her family to Oakmead Avenue in Bilborough and then in 1980 to Westerham Close where she would finally settle.

Place of Work

Like many others who had moved to this country, Doris quickly had to adapt to life in England and soon realised it was not the Motherland it had been presented to be.

Eulogy

Initially, earning less than she did in Jamaica, Doris worked from late 1963 to 1969 in Loughborough at Mansfield Hosiery and from 1969 as a machine operative at John Players Horizon factory, until she retired. It was whilst working at John Players that she added to her exclusive list of lifelong friends that included Hazel Campbell (she would later become Godmother to Hazel's grandson Meshach), Novlette Lowther, Miriam Grant and many more. The families of Doris's lifelong friends would subsequently maintain a closeness that would span decades and continues today. Doris worked tirelessly to support her family but in addition to this she never forgot her children in Jamaica. Despite not having a huge income and little or no support, she managed to save enough to bring all her children to England and with Janice arriving in 1973, her mission was accomplished.

With the family now at last together, Doris devoted herself to raising her children and laying the foundation for them to seize opportunities to better themselves. This was relentless toil for her as a single parent, as come rain, come shine, whether sick or well she worked shifts at the factory so her family could survive; and then another shift at home to make sure we would thrive. Then, she would be up again early morning for the factory at 5 am, all for the six to whom she dedicated her life. Though the challenges were endless so too was her patience and determination to succeed. No sacrifice was too great for Doris when it came to achieving her sole objective of ensuring we were all safe, secure, and supported in realising our potential and achieving success. Success, however, is not just measured by qualifications but also by the quality of your character; and Doris's unwavering principles and values demanded that we were not only striving to make sure that we were good at our grades, but also striving to be good and decent in our ways. This was not optional it was compulsory, and this rock solid, patient but persistent resolve was the foundation of our upbringing and would become the bedrock of her guidance, support and advice to grandchildren, great grandchildren, family, and friends alike.

Education in England

Following her retirement at age 53, Doris accompanied her close friend Hazel Campbell to the Berridge Centre, Forest fields, Nottingham to support her.

Eulogy

As was her nature she began volunteering with the Adult Basic Education Team at Clarendon College, first supporting others and then with the thirst for her own education, rekindled becoming a student herself. Doris completed a Communications Skills course achieving level 3 and then progressed to an Access to a Higher Education certificate studying GCSE English, Sociology and additional courses in research and essay writing. Now with the once lost opportunity in front of her, Doris's quiet but confident belief in her own potential was allowed to shine and that brilliance was no better illustrated than when she was awarded the Student of the Year in 1993, following her nomination by tutors across the college. It remains to this day an immensely proud moment for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and reinforced for all of us what she had always taught us, try your best, do not follow people, believe in your own potential, and most importantly lead by example!

Church and Church Activities

Other than the family that she loved dearly, Doris was dedicated to God and the Church of God (Assembly), Traffic Street, Nottingham where she was baptised. Together with Hazel they contributed passionately to the congregation in church but were also heavily engaged in additional benevolent activities, including visiting hospitals, residential homes, and cooking for the homeless. Doris also hosted visiting church members from other parts of the country and abroad, whilst they were in Nottingham attending Conventions. Doris had an excellent relationship with Bishop McFarlane and indeed both he, his wife Sister Charmaine and children Shekinah, Alex and Ebony became really close to her and were considered part of the extended family, with Alex being her godson. More lifelong friends were made in the church, Sister Elaine, Sister Ida, Sister Chrissie, Sister Johnson, Sister Cilla, Brother Paul, and Brother Dino to name but a few; there were so many that she had a connection with.

As Doris became older and her mobility began to be an issue, she was taken to church by her son-in-law Ranny and collected by her son Tyehimba. It was during these journeys that a variety of topics were discussed, gospel music played and what is now affectionately known as her pearls of wisdom were shared.

Eulogy

The 'pearls of wisdom' were an essential source of education themselves, as were the many stories of her experiences told by her repeatedly; however, this was not because she had forgotten she had already told them but crucially to ensure you would get the message and never forget the important meaning she wanted to convey. Every Sunday, Brother Paul would make it his duty to escort her to and from the car when she arrived, and when she was leaving church. Doris was forever expressing her gratitude for all who helped her in any way, and she made sure we all knew how much she appreciated all the care and support she received from others.

Voluntary Service

Mother C/Grandma Clarke as she was affectionately known was a well-respected and valuable member of the Shiefton family. She worked as a classroom assistant helping the youngest children to read, write and do basic maths. Mother C also made monthly financial contributions to the organisation because she was passionate about educating children in the community and the ethos of Shiefton. She would emphasise to the children about the value of a good education and her experiences in Jamaica and England.

Doris was the proud grandmother of 13 beloved grandchildren, Denise, Edward, Simone, Natasha, Danielle, Ramone, Zakiya, Sheraigh, Safiya, Shaun, Andre, Qaa'sim and Shaqil. She was blessed with five great grandchildren, Bailey, Kayden D, Araya, Jahvari and Kayden J.

Doris Loretta Clarke was the epitome of patience, tolerance, and resilience. A humble Christian woman, calm, cultured, highly principled and possessing the strength of a lioness despite her small stature. This unbelievable strength saw her through living with chronic bronchial asthma and recovering from a stroke without complaint but with the steady will to keep pushing herself to progress.

Doris's devotion to her children, grandchildren, son in laws Ranny and Kernal, daughter in law Corenna and step grandchildren Tamika and Jason was special because she had a unique relationship with each one of us. We were all treated as individuals because she was wise enough to know all our different characters.

Eulogy

In her own words, "People think because I don't speak, I'm stupid." nothing could have been further from the truth! She knew everyone of us, our different strengths and weaknesses and sometimes different needs. She was an excellent judge of character and with an expertise that was so graceful, it often went unnoticed, she tended to our needs always maintaining the same principles but tailor-making her approach to intricately fit the particular person and circumstances - and it was not up for discussion with anyone else! This calm but sophisticated approach developed unique trust and avoided unnecessary conflict or fuss (which she could not take) but most importantly, it also ensured that all the way through her life these special relationships were maintained. Although geographically there was distance between her and some of her children and grandchildren this was mitigated by telephone contact on a daily and weekly basis. In terms of her care, her children were very engaged and worked in partnership with carers. Her care was co-ordinated by Charmaine, assisted by Paula and Tyehimba, with respite provided periodically by Gem, Janice, and Janet on visits from London. Doris loved seeing her grandchildren and great grandchildren and especially enjoyed her weekly visits from her granddaughter Danielle and her "little man" great grandson Jahvari. Christmas was an occasion she always looked forward to as it was when most of the family would gather, and she would warmly welcome us (as her house was always boiling hot) but always reminded us to, "Mek sure yuh leave the place how you found it."

Although Doris was mostly housebound for several years, she was by no means out of touch. She often said, "I'm alone, but not lonely." This was absolutely true. On what was often a weekly basis, Doris would be in telephone contact with her family near and far Aunt Gwennie, Aunt Lil, Aunt May, Danny, Hyacinth not to mention daily calls from her children and regular calls from her grandchildren. Doris also made effective use of her telephone for joining prayer meetings via conference call and attending church via zoom. Doris had a great rapport with her carers always knowing as much about them as they did about her and typically, always defending the difficult jobs they had to do as carers. She always made the carers welcome in her home praising the work they did and introducing her children, by number (order of birth 1-6), whenever they were visiting.

Eulogy

Doris enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, engaging in wide-ranging conversations with her family and there were few topics that she was not able to give a comprehensive opinion on. She was, very organised, always punctual and did not like to wait around for things to happen.

Doris was much loved, admired, and respected by all she met. Her humility was profound, yet her quiet but firm influence over matters was prolific. Without shouting, she was often heard the most. Without seeking attention, hers was the attention that was most often sought; and without offending us she defended us all. No matter the difficulties in life her faith in God was unshakeable and her belief in her family unbreakable.

On the 22nd February 2022, Doris celebrated her 87th birthday having recently been discharged from hospital as she had been unwell. That remarkable strength had yet again been on show as she battled to ensure she could be at home, the place she loved best, around the people she loved the most, her family. It was a glorious day and she let us all know how much she was truly happy to be at home with us. It was not to last however, and Doris took ill again soon after and was readmitted to hospital. On the 24th February 2022, having called all the family together and thanking everyone in the family and friends profusely for all their care and support, Doris went into a peaceful sleep with all her family and a wall of love around her. On Friday morning, the 25th February 2022, Doris left us with the grace that her character and life personified to be with the God she ever served.

Mum led with wisdom; quietly, gracefully, and always by example. She remembered everyone, was kind to anyone and fair to all. Mum was a pillar of aspiration and left for us a legacy of peace, honesty and unconditional love. A small, humble woman but a giant of a lioness that proudly protected her pride with the power of sticking to her principles and the unwavering strength of her convictions. She will be ever loved, forever cherished, and forever missed by all.





Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

Chorus:

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.



How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"



What My Grandma Means To Me

What my Grandma means to me

A quietly, powerful, independent lady

What my Grandma means to me

A simple, classy, no nonsense,
no fuss type of lady

What my Grandma means to me

The number 28 bus and Bracebridge Drive

What my Grandma means to me

Bilborough, a home away from home

What my Grandma means to me

A huge backyard and tales of Bruno the dog

What my Grandma means to me

Hypersensitive to her surroundings,
especially the pollen count

What my Grandma means to me

A front room that was a furnace
with soaps and game shows on the TV

What my Grandma means to me

A hat, gloves, heated shoulder wrap
even when it's 100 degrees

What my Grandma means to me

Enjoying being around the family,
even though she went to bed early

What my Grandma means to me

Saturday soup, fried dumplings
and Friday fish and chips

What my Grandma means to me

Church on a Sunday
and convention in the holidays

What my Grandma means to me

The partners in Christ -
Grandma Clarke and Mrs Campbell

What My Grandma Means To Me

What my Grandma means to me

Serving the community as well as God

What my Grandma means to me

A super supporter of her family

What my Grandma means to me

Always sending a birthday card
even if she couldn't write it herself

What my Grandma means to me

Saying 'Be good' at the end of every phone call

What my Grandma means to me

Pearls of wisdom and straight-talking advice

What my Grandma means to me

A timeless, tireless, hardworking principled lady

What my Grandma means to me

Winning student of the Year at 58,
inspiring us that it's never too late to follow our dreams

What my Grandma means to me

A woman that never gives up and instills in us determination and
motivation to be the best person we can be

What my Grandma means to me

The epitome of strength and courage

What my Grandma means to me

The warrior, huntress and alpha lioness

What my Grandma means to me

A comforter, confidante and listening ear

What my Grandma means to me

A source of refuge, comfort and safety

What my Grandma meant to me

Knowing that she would always love me





In Loving Memory



Doris Loretta Clarke

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are sincerely grateful to the many family and friends who have given us support and comfort during this time of loss.

Special thanks to those who have assisted us in various ways, in particular Bishop McFarlane, Bishop Davis, Kardo, Eulan, Walter, Lloyd, Joy S and Claudia.

BURIAL | 1.30PM

High Wood Cemetery
Low Wood Road
Bulwell
Nottingham
NG6 7GA

WAKE | 3PM

The Atrium
99 Hucknall Road
Carrington
Nottingham
NG5 1QZ

Following the service, a coach will be leaving from the church to the cemetery and from the cemetery to The Atrium.

