

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support at this sad time.

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To Celebrate the Life of

# Doreen Draper

14th August 1923 - 2nd August 2020

Graveside service at Park Road Cemetery, Ilkeston

Tuesday 18th August 2020 at 12.45 pm

Service taken by Jez Prance





### MUSIC

Mother Of Mine by Hayley Westenra

Mother of mine, you gave to me  
All of my life to do as I please.

I owe everything I have to you.

Mother, sweet mother of mine...

Mother of mine, when I was young,

You showed me the right way things had to be done.

Without your love where would I be?

Mother, sweet mother of mine.

Mother, you gave me happiness,

Much more than words can say.

I pray to the Lord that He may bless you every night and every day.

Mother of mine, now I am grown

And I can walk straight all on my own.

I'd like to give you what you gave to me...

Mother, sweet mother of mine...

Mother, you gave me happiness, much more than words can say,

I pray to the Lord that He may bless you every night and every day...

Mother of mine, now I am grown,

And I can walk straight all on my own,

I'd like to give you what you gave to me...

Mother, sweet mother of mine...

Mother, sweet mother of mine...

### POEM

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on the tombstone from beginning, to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears,

But he said that what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth

And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.

What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

To be less quick with anger and show appreciation more

And love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,

Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash,

Would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

## TRIBUTE TO DOREEN

Who is Margaret Doreen Draper?

A few know her as Margaret, the majority know her as Doreen. Her close friends and family know her as Dorrie, Doe, Dod and even Drapper. To her grand, great-grand and great-great-grandchildren she is simply their Mi Gran. To her children she is their precious mum.

In her 96 years 11 months and approximately 19 days of her life, Doreen leaves her mark in so many people's lives. She was unaware of her own popularity and of how many people knew her, loved, trusted and respected her. No matter what role she has taken in the lives of all whose paths crossed hers, almost all have a tale to tell, a memory to share, and a laugh to be had. Doreen loved her life and loved to tell stories of her past, regaling people with memories of her adventures and of the people who left their mark with her. She would often laugh at her escapades and those of her family and friends. She is an inspiration to so many and her character, sense of humour and genuine no nonsense approach to life will forever be remembered by all those who knew her.

Doreen was born on the 14th August 1923 to Amy-Gladys and Jack Whitworth in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Doreen's life was eventful from her earliest memories and she learned to be independent and how to survive from a very young age. Her brother Geoff was born in 1927 when she was four years old and she would often be left to care for him while her mum Amy was away from home as she was a bit of a socialite of the era by all accounts. Her father was a professional footballer for Chesterfield, something Doreen was very proud of, and it was also a career her brother Geoff later followed at Liverpool. The war broke out when Doreen was approximately 15 years old and she would often be left to take Geoff to the air raid shelter when the sirens went off. Doreen loved to talk about the blackout and how they survived the bombings.



Doreen and her brother would spend many summer school holidays with their grandmother in Clay Cross in Derbyshire. Doreen would tell stories of her dressing up in her grandmother's hats, watching the ladies in their finery going to the church next door and of the stomach ache she would have after eating the gooseberries from the bottom of the garden. It was during these early years that Doreen found her love of crafts. She would embroider, knit, sew and make do as money was tight and this talent was passed to her family over the years.

Doreen also loved to dance, becoming the East Midlands tap dancing champion, something which she was so proud of. It was this love of dance that was instrumental in her meeting her first love Ron. He used to play the trumpet at the local dance hall and Doreen loved to go and watch him play. They both worked at Stanton Ironworks during the war with Ron working on the cranes casting bombs and Doreen working with mercury in the laboratories. Doreen was to be moved out of area as a single woman so Ron proposed to her and they married at St Mary's Church in Ilkeston on 12th June 1943 when she was 19 years old followed by a "honeymoon" in Beeston, Nottingham, staying with friends. Due to the war they were only granted a two day holiday from work. This wedding was a significant event in the formation of their future family as it exists today. The gentleman that covered Ron's job at work that day was involved in an explosion that proved fatal to him. If Ron and Doreen had not wed that day and had their honeymoon Ron would have been at work and he would have been in that blast. Doreen's family would not have existed as it is today something Doreen reflected on often.

Doreen often giggled about the memory of their wedding night. Ron was her "first love" and she told of how scared she was at the thought of sleeping with a man. Thankfully the air raid sirens went off and they spent their wedding night and honeymoon in the shelter much to her relief!

They set up home at 27 Carr Street, Ilkeston in a "6 n a penny a week rent" home and she was blissfully happy despite the wartime struggles. In 1945 Doreen gave birth to unexpected twins Michael and John. Doreen had no idea there were two babies until she had given birth to one. Unfortunately John only lived six months due to poor health but there was no NHS as we know it and he couldn't be saved. Four years later Angela arrived and as a family they moved to Richmond Avenue in Cotmanhay. Whenever Doreen shared these memories her eyes lit up as she told her stories of how she made it into her home and her adventures with her children along the way.



Doreen went to work for her brother Geoff at the Old Wine Vaults and 10 years later in the mid 1960s Geoff left, leaving Doreen and Ron to take over as Landlord and Landlady. This is when Doreen began to shine. This is the time most people "knew" Doreen. She became famous for her no nonsense approach and ability to split up those who started a fight. Many times those who caused any trouble would leave the pub with the dirty wet mop from the gents toilets wrapped around their heads! Everyone loved her!

She loved to attend banquets and dances with Ron and other licensees. Many admired her glamorous and elegant demeanour, she was truly admired by all.



She became a boss, a friend and a confidante to many who needed an ear or a bed for the night because they had fallen out with their loved ones. During her time at the Vaults, Doreen became a grandmother to six grandchildren she adored with her whole being. Jayne, Richard, Marianne, Julie, Russell, and Robert. New adventures and memories were made and treasured with each and every one of them. Holiday to Skegness and Butlin's, day trips to their boat on the river Trent. Doreen loved her family and the time she spent with them.

Ron's health was deteriorating for a few years and he passed away suddenly in 1982 on holiday in Tenerife. Doreen struggled on with the help of her family and friends but it was too much and she retired from the Wine Vaults in the mid 1980s.

She didn't retire from bar life though and continued to work for her daughter Angie, where she met her second love Dougie. This began a new era for Doreen and a new life with Doug. In her mid 70s she went to Mablethorpe with Dougie to run the Eagle Hotel, then coming back to settle back in Ilkeston to enjoy her retirement with her new great-grandchildren, Kiefer, Kayleigh, Scott, Michaela, Cameron, Jordan, Jack, Declan, Liam, Teigan, Honey and Clarissa. Doreen loved to have them over for sleep overs and continued to give out packing bags filled with sweets, crisps and biscuits and cake like she used to with her grandchildren. No child ever left her home without a packing bag!



Doreen and Dougie continued to live life to its fullest, working occasionally behind bars when help was needed, going on cruises and taking holidays to Hardy's site in Ingoldmells in their tourer caravan Doreen enjoyed 25 years with Dougie, creating amazing memories: Christmas day night the family would descend at hers, and their parties were amazing. If the bar in her home could talk there would be a lot of laughs and tears! she also took so much pride in her great-great-grandchildren Brody, Ryan, Ethan, Isaac, Kaiden, Jensen, Louie, Jace, Jaxon, Joel, Lyanna, and Mila! Another addition is also on the way but Doreen couldn't wait for her unfortunately but we know she will be watching over all her family and to have five generations is a feat in itself.



Unfortunately Dougie's health too started to deteriorate and he passed away suddenly whilst visiting his son in Northampton. Doreen's own health suffered with grief but she fought on for a further three years. Doreen's own medical team were astounded at her inner strength. She was referred to being like titanium! She had developed dementia at the end but never acknowledged it as it was something she feared. Despite having a heart attack breaking bones and a hip replacement at the age of 96 she lived independently right to her last day in her own home cared for by her daughter Angie, her granddaughter Jayne and her grandson-in-law, Benny in her final years. Alongside carers from Avanti, Doreen still had a good quality of life but the Covid epidemic changed everything and Doreen couldn't enjoy the trips out and visits like she had the years before. After her final battle with her health she fell asleep with her loved ones holding her hand on August 2nd 2020 at 12.50 pm. The angels collected her and left behind all her love and many happy memories.

Doreen live her life to the full and didn't regret anything. She made the most of what she could do and struggled in the end with what she couldn't, but one thing that will always stand out was her true grit, her sense of humour, the strength of her soul and her endless love.

It is true for Doreen that she may be gone in body but will never be forgotten by those who loved and knew her.

Our friend, our mum and our Mi Gran

## MUSIC

You'll Never Walk Alone by Gerry and the Pacemakers

## POEM

Train Of Life

At the birth we boarded the train and met our parents,  
and we believe they will always travel on our side.  
However, at some station our parents will step down  
from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train  
and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends,  
children, volunteers, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum.  
Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realise they vacated  
their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, full of sorrow,  
fantasy, expectations, hellos, good-byes, and farewells.  
Success consists of having a good relationship with all  
passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is, we do not know at which station  
we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love,  
forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important  
to do this because when the time comes for us to step down  
and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories  
for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life.

Reap success and give lots of love.

More importantly, thank God for the journey.

## POEM

All Is Well

Death is nothing at all.

I have only slipped into the next room.

I am I and you are you.

Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by my old familiar name,

Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.

Put no difference in your tone.

Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.

Let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same as it ever was, there is unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am waiting for you, for an interval.

Somewhere very near.

Just around the corner.

All is well.

*by Henry Scott Holland*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.

Amen.



### MUSIC

Angel

by Sarah McLachlan