

A Service of Thanksgiving to Celebrate the  
Life of

# Dr Sarah Kaye Blackburn

1<sup>st</sup> September 1955 – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020



Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 1.00pm  
St Nicholas Church, Brushford







# Order of Service

## **Opening music**

*Bóg się rodzi (God is born)*



## **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Louise Southgate



## **Tributes**

Joseph and Claire Blackburn



## **Music for Reflection**

*Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*



## **Reading**

*1 Corinthians 13: 1-7*

Read by Julia Blackburn



## **Address**



## Prayers



### **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



### **Commendation and Blessing**



### **Closing music**

*Don't cry for me Argentina*



### **Committal at Church Gate**



## Eulogy to Sarah

Having graduated from Cambridge with First Class honours Sarah remained there to complete a PGCE which she gained with Distinction. She subsequently, taught Classics and Religious studies at Queens' Gate School, then Downe House. In the latter she was put in charge of the new Information Technology Department, because she was the youngest teacher! It was a steep learning curve but, in a typical demonstration of her intelligence and energy, she set up a department that introduced students of all ages to the benefits of computers.

After Claire was born, Sarah trained as a chartered accountant with KPMG in Reading. She studied and worked with such zeal that she was selected by PASS magazine and Harrison-Willis as Trainee Accountant of the year in 1998. After becoming a Chartered Accountant she became a senior project manager in the internal audit department at Sainsbury's, before moving on to jobs as Head of Internal Audit for a succession of FT250 companies (Argos, Kingfisher, RAC/Lex, and Exel/DHL).

Despite these busy full-time jobs, Sarah was a wonderful mother and wife. Julia and Claire came into the world and became Sarah's proudest accomplishments. She wanted them to succeed in all their ventures and helping to make that possible was always her first priority. So school fees were more important than holidays abroad, and taking Julia to ballet and Claire to skating lessons took precedence over relaxing at the end of the working day.

By studying as soon as Julia and Claire were tucked up in bed, Sarah gained a Master's Degree in Business Administration in 1993, a Doctorate in Business Administration in 2002, and then a string of other qualifications. Her studies gave her the skills to develop new roles and be recognised internationally as an authority in risk management, corporate governance and internal audit.

Sarah's work with Exel took her all over the globe, leading to professional collaborations that inspired her to start her own Management Consultancy firm, the Wayside Network Limited, in 2003. Some of her favourite clients included Historic Royal Palaces, The National Trust, English Heritage, and The Houses of Parliament. She became a member of the board of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), and a member of Council for the Open University.

As President of the Institute of Internal Auditors of UK and Ireland, Sarah led the campaign for a Royal Charter. When the charter was granted in 2010, Sarah was asked to continue as the first President of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (CIIA). After her Presidency ended, the CIIA asked her to represent the UK and Ireland as a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), where for a 7-year term she championed the development of a worldwide internal audit qualification and international standards for internal auditing.

At the same time she thrived as a Non-Executive Director at the Healthcare Commission, and Identity and Passport Service.

In 2004, Sarah and Joseph bought the derelict shell of the Goods Shed on the old station site in Brushford. Sarah designed her 'forever home' and the renovation of Dulverton Sidings was eventually completed in 2008. Moving to Brushford was part of a plan to reduce her paid workload and spend more time with Joseph and her dogs. This also allowed her to turn the wasteland around her house into a garden and join in the local community.

As Treasurer of the Brushford Parish Hall she worked with other Trustees to update their finance and governance systems. She led the process that resulted in the Parish Hall being awarded the highest 'Hallmark' rating by The Community Council for Somerset. As well as contributing to projects organised by other Trustees, Sarah arranged much of the funding and commissioning to renovate the car park and install an electric car charging point.

She supported other local charities including hosting parties for the Air Ambulance and Dulverton Weir & Leat Conservation Trust in the garden of her home. Sarah also made time to work as a governor of Minehead College, and The Community Council for Somerset where her experience made her a significant asset.

Sarah still regularly travelled around the UK as a Non-Executive Director (NED) of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Digital, and the RAC Pension Fund. In many of these organisations she was also Chairman of the Audit Committee.



Throughout her life, Sarah was a source of emotional and practical support for her family, friends, and colleagues. She helped many people to achieve their ambitions. We thought we would have Sarah loving and guiding us for another 20 years – her death leaves a huge hole in our lives.

Dear Sarah, we will always love you. Joseph, Julia, and Claire pray that you rest in peace and happiness.







Sarah's family would like to express their gratitude to everyone who was able to attend the service today, and to all those who could not attend but sent their kind condolences and tributes to Sarah.



You are all invited to join the family to celebrate Sarah's life and to share all your wonderful memories of her at:

**Brushford Parish Hall**



Donations in memory of Sarah may be made to her preferred charity, Brushford Parish Hall, by going to <https://brushfordparishhall.org.uk>.

Friendship & Sons Funeral Directors