

Dudley Richard Smith
19th September 1927 – 3rd August 2024
Breakspear Crematorium – East Chapel
Wednesday 21st August 2024 at 11.30am

Opening Music – Elgar's Nimrod

Opening Words and Introduction – Good morning to you all and on behalf of Dudley's family, may I thank you for coming together today to bid farewell to a man you loved greatly who has given of his best to you all throughout his life. This special man is Dudley Richard Smith. So today we are here to honour and truly celebrate Dudley's life with a service planned with such love and care by his family.

We also welcome those unable to be with us here in the chapel and who link through our live webcast, especially his brother Ron and step daughter Lynnete and their families who live in Australia.

Dudley has lived through ninety seven of the most challenging and changing years in modern history – born between the two World Wars, living through the Great Depression. At his time of birth George V was King and Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister and most deliveries were by horse and cart. There was no NHS or social care and definitely no modern-day electronics and technology. Communities had to support each other, and the resilience shown by that generation is immeasurable.

Whilst we are limited in our time together today, we do hope to do justice to that life and although we can only share a brief outline of Dudley's life, you all have your own precious memories of your time spent together, and I ask that you complete the full colourful tapestry with those memories.

Like many of his age, Dudley had a few challenges with his health but he was strong and determined and always put his best foot forward. He never wished to be a burden to his family.

May you all draw comfort in the knowledge that Dudley is no longer suffering, his soul is at peace as he steps through that veil of life. Importantly his love remains with you all and strengthens every day.

Our poem is read by Iain Strachan

Poem by Rudyard Kipling and read by Iain Strachan–

If

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Tribute Dudley

Dudley was born in Colchester on 19th September 1927 and grew up with his brother Ron and sister Doreen. There was seven years between Dudley and Ron and Ron remembered how, when they were little, they were affected by the 2nd World War and the family had to take cover on many occasions in the shelter during bomb raids. The shelter was fifty yards away from the family home, and Dudley and Ron always remembered hearing the bombs dropping. One morning after a particular bombing raid, the family came out of the shelter to see their house completely demolished. It took time to rebuild it.

With Their Dad and Grandad being musicians in the Army, family life was busy and they travelled all over the UK and to India. In fact Doreen was born in Calcutta.

As Ron recalls, Dudley in his young years always willing to help his Mum and Dad around the house. whether it be gardening, helping his Dad or other chores he could do. Dudley was not really into sports, he was more into helping around the house and helping looking after his younger sister Doreen and brother Ron.

With Dudley being the eldest, his Mother would always say to him – 'we don't know where Ron is, can you go look for him?' This often happened and without fail, Dudley would always look for and find his for his younger brother.

National Service was spent in the RAF where he trained up as an aircraft mechanic and also learnt to drive. He never took a driving test as in those days, if you drove in the forces, it was just accepted that you could drive.

Following his demob he joined Fairy Aviation as an apprentice in Heston and started off as an aircraft technician. On completing his training he moved to BEA and when that merged with BOAC, BA was formed and Dudley worked for the company for the rest of his life. He worked up through the ranks and was a valued production planning engineer.

When he was in his early twenties, he loved his motor bike, a BSA500. He had a friend called Johnny and they both would ride everywhere down the coast and everywhere they could go.

Dudley's mother never liked the motor bike and was always worried every time Dudley went out for a ride. One day he fell off the bike and grazed his leg and hip really bad which was exactly what his Mum was afraid of.

He progressed from the bikes to his first car – a Ford 10 which cost him ten bob in the sixties. He spent a great deal of time refurbishing the interior – red seats and he painted outside. It was a flash little car. He loved tinkering with cars and when he overhauled the Mini – he took the engine out on Friday night, cleaned it all up and repaired it so it was ready to drive on Monday morning! Nothing ever phased him.

He was a proud dad to Michael and Jonathan and would make sure that every Saturday they went out together. He worked very hard and ensured that each year they had holidays. Sadly his marriage to Joyce came to an end but he found happiness once more when he met Marie and became step dad to Nicola, Louise, Carolyn and Lynnette.

Nicola recalls travelling to Florida with Dudley, Marie and Michael and they all had a wonderful time. Dudley's trips to America with Marie were both relaxing and enjoyable as Dudley loved his shopping trips to the big malls.

In later life when Dudley was working at British Airways, he would go to Australia every year to see his brother Ron and the family to see his wife Marie's daughter Lynette and her family. They all had wonderful times together and many memories were created including hunting for budgerigars, only to find there weren't any to be seen!

He would go for a few weeks and would always set aside a weekend to see his brother Ron and his family. Ron would show Dudley and Marie the sites of Southern outer areas of Sydney, that included a visit to Canberra the Australian Capital City one year.

They were great times catching up, enjoying life stories and seeing shows at the local clubs, dinners and lunches. Ron always looked forward to seeing Dudley and Marie when they came to Australia, there were always good times and laughter.

When Ron travelled back to London with his family for a visit in 1980, they stayed at Dudley's and Marie for a few weeks. Dudley loved tweaking with cars and had one for Ron to drive around whilst he was here.

Dudley and Marie had set a surprise party for Ron and his family with all the members of the family secretly arriving. It was an enjoyable event and Dudley and Marie kept it quiet, and Ron and his family had no idea. Dudley also took Ron and his family to Heathrow to show them the sites on airside at the airport which included a visit on board the Concorde.

Ron was to travel back to London a couple times more over the years to see Dudley, Doreen and his mother. The last time Ron travelled to London to see Dudley and his sister Doreen was in 2016 it was a good visit where Ron stayed with Dudley for that time. Dudley's last visit to Australia was a couple of years ago where he came with his son Michael, it would be the last time Dudley and Ron would see each other.

As a valued member of the Free Masons, Dudley has spent more than fifty years supporting them and there were many Ladies nights and dinners and dancing that and Dudley and Marie enjoyed. Dudley took his responsibilities very seriously and was proud of his achievements within the Masons. In fact many of the ladies nights were organised by him and Nicola and her mum would be folding countless raffle tickets.

Dudley was also an avid Chelsea supporter and encourage Bradley from a young age to do the same. To everyone's surprise that is just what Bradley did and he was so excited when Dudley took him to his first home game.

A man who loved his family, he never liked a fuss and was always there to support everyone. He will be greatly missed by you all.

If you are able, please now stand for our hymn – Abide with Me.

Hymn

Abide With Me

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

As we take our seats, I invite those who wish to join me to join in the Lord's Prayer.

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 that trespass against us.
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

Farewell - As we say farewell to Dudley, hold a memory of him in your mind that reflect his nature and that journey you have shared together. As you hold those memories deep within your hearts, you know that Dudley, Dad, Grandad is with you always for a he steps through that veil of life, into the eternal world of light and peace, he is welcomed by those who have made that journey before and especially Marie who he missed greatly.

Feel his love enfold you as we listen to Bridge Over Troubled Waters and you think of that life you have shared together.

Reflective Music - Royal Philharmonic Orchestra - Bridge Over Troubled Water (Instrumental)

Closing words - We are never truly prepared to say farewell to our loved ones and even when someone has reached a full age, it is just as hard to let them go knowing they are no longer there to speak to, share anything with and have a support in our lives. But what is important to remember are those wonderful memories you have created together – those memories do not end today and neither does the love that has been shared, for every time you think of Dudley, he is with you and so is his love.

Dudley will always live through the family he loved more than anything else – sons Michael, and Jonathan and step daughters Nicola, Carolyn and Lynette as well as the grandchildren, Mathew, Holly, Stuart, Bradley, Louise, Colin, Lisa, Kevin, Sonia, Andrew and Fabio. He was so proud of you all and your achievements and would want you to carry on making the most of every moment of your lives, facing the challenges as well as the joyful times with courage and determination. He has been an incredible example for you all to follow and know that his love and guidance will always be there for you to draw upon.

As we now come to the close of our service, on behalf of the family, thank you all once more for being here to support them and each other today. You are now invited to share your own memories as this celebration of Dudley's life continues at The Conservative Club in Ickenham – details are on your order of service.

We now leave to Charles Gounod playing Ave Maria.

Closing Music – Charles Gounod - Ave Maria

For reference –

Wake – Ruislip conservative Club

Donations – No

Pro tribute Slide Show - No

Webcast – Yes – Brother Ron and family and Lynnette and family in Australia

Curtains – Open throughout and close with final music

Number of Mourners – 50 ++

Favourite Colour or theme -

Halo/Family Photo or Stock photo for screen – Woodland Scene

Printer for OOS - FD

FD – Nicola/Barbara @ Sherry's