

Alistair Reid



Introduction

At St James we share the pain of loss with Alistair's family and friends and would like to extend our condolences to you all. Alistair was a well - respected member and elder of our church family and is missed by many. We hope that these words bring comfort to all, whether they can take their leave in person, or are prevented from doing so in these challenging times.

The Service

Gathering/ Call

The grace and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all

The apostle Paul says: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive". We have come to this place to say good- bye to Alistair Hugh Reid, to remember his life full of sadness but also with a thankful heart and to commend him to God's grace. Not all who would like to be here today will be able to come during these difficult times, but we know that they remember Alistair and that their thoughts are with us today and we can be sure that God is not restricted to places but lives in our hearts.

Prayer

Loving God,

You are our rock and our strength; in you we can put our trust. And so, we bring our sadness and our loss to you today as we also remember Alistair with thanks that we were able to share his life.

We give you thanks for a man who in his quiet way gained the respect, the friendship and the love of many, within his family, at work and in his church, for a man who lived a life of responsibility and duty.

We give you thanks for a life well lived, a life of many talents and interests, for a man who brought joy to many with his guitar and his music, for a man who loved the quiet joys of fishing as well as the patient work with electronics and hi-fi. We give you thanks for the love he gave and received in his family and beyond.

We give you thanks for your son Jesus Christ who loved us so much, he gave his life, so we all may live, a life without pain, a life without suffering in your presence. In this time of grief let us all remember that you sent your son so nothing can separate us from your love, let us live in the trust, that Alistair is now at peace with you, as we all will be.

Loving God,

We entrust Alistair and ourselves to you in this difficult time, when we grieve and are hurting and yet have to go on, cannot stop, because we have responsibilities and duties to others, grant us the gift of time to grieve and the mercy of faith in your resurrection, we pray.

And we pray all this through Jesus Christ, the first to have risen from the dead. AMEN

Reading: Isaiah 40, 28-31

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Poem

Don't remember me with sadness

Don't remember me with sadness, don't remember me with tears, remember all the laughter, we've shared throughout the years. Now I am contented that my life it was worthwhile, knowing that I passed along the way I made somebody smile. When you are walking down the street and you've got me on your mind, I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind. So please don't be unhappy just because I'm out of sight, remember that I'm with you each morning, noon, and night.

Eulogy

It is a cause for sadness that we cannot say goodbye to Alistair as we would do in different times, but we will still take some time to honour his life and to remember who Alistair was. Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid", (John 14, 27) and so let me share with you my firm belief that Alistair is now at peace with God as we all will be and in this trust let us share the memories of who Alistair was and let us do so in the words of his son Steven, which I am reading out to you:

Alistair Hugh Reid was born on 6th March 1946 in Mauchline and spent his younger years in Sunnyside Crescent with his father John and mother Agnes, his big brother John and younger brother and sister Keith and Nancy.

From a young age Alistair enjoyed and spent much of his time in the company of his siblings, he would spend time plinking in the fields with his brother, or taking his sister fishing, which she wasn't that keen on, or one time - to the picture house - to see the most recent Elvis film – which she much preferred.

In his earlier years, Alistair also enjoyed building remote controlled aircraft or gliders. On one early attempt he built a new glider called a 'Mini Mower' and on its maiden test flight with his brother crashed the plane into the window of a neighbour - Mrs Rowans - who was most displeased with his piloting skills and was waiting for him with a few choice words when he went to retrieve the craft.

Alistair first met his wife Sandra on Friday 12th July 1968 at a dance at the Auchinleck Community Centre. The dance went well

and they agreed to meet again but due to commitments with his wedding band that weekend, they had to wait until the Monday before they could see each other again. They were married on 23rd October 1971 and later bought a house together in Mansefield Road in Mauchline. They lived there for several years until after their son Steven was born in 1978 and their daughter Margaret in 1980, they moved to Alderston Place in Ayr where he would spend the rest of his life.

In the early 70's Alistair had begun working for Ayr County Council based in Wellington Square as a Quantity Surveyor and would spend his working life in this role. During his employment he made some lifelong friends and kept in touch with them long after he retired and would meet up for a meal and a drink or two on occasion.

Alistair had many talents and interests. From an early age he practiced the guitar and became part of a wedding band called 'The Country Boys' and in later years he frequently played at St James' church events too. Many of his children's friends said that their first memory of meeting Alistair was at his home where he would be sat in a dimly lit room playing 'The Shadows' songs on his electric guitar with his home-made valve amplifier glowing in the background.

He was interested in electronics, hi-fi and speakers and had the ability to build guitar and hi-fi amplifiers from scratch – although they had to be valve amplifiers as they produced the best sound according to Alistair. He would disassemble a perfectly good stereo to see how it worked and amassed a huge collection of hi-fi equipment – enough to fill an entire room – the front room of Alderston Place specifically.

Alistair was happy when Steven and Margaret and their partners Jennifer and James settled down nearby in Prestwick and Ayr and in 2010 his first grandchild was welcomed and was followed shortly afterwards by 3 more. Alex, Emily, Max and Ivy were a great source of pride for him and he especially enjoyed when they visited. Alistair sanded down and hand painted a small chair for each of them, taking care to select each of their favourite colours. The children sit at the table with their special chairs whenever the family visit for some of Gran's soup or an evening meal. He very much enjoyed when the grandkids would play in the garden as he could sit on his garden bench and quietly enjoy watching them play. This is how they will remember them, on a bench watching their play and occasionally refereeing.

Committal

Jesus said: Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours and their works will follow them

Alistair Hugh Reid is committed to God's grace in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ who died was buried and rose again for us and is alive and reigns for evermore

Prayer

Loving God,

We give you thanks for the honour and the privilege to have known Alistair, to have been part of his life, to have been able to share good moments as well as difficult times, for the memories we have left to cherish and in giving thanks for all this we remember in prayer all who were closest to him.

We pray for Sandra, who shared his life to the very end, who cared for him in good times and in difficult times, who now will feel a gap that cannot be filled, cannot be replaced. Grant her the strength to grieve and when the time is right the courage to let go.

We pray for Steven and Jennifer, for Margaret and James who have lost a father who cared and provided for them throughout their childhood, who was a certain presence in their adult life and we remember Alex and Max, Ivy and Emily who share their parents' pain. May they all find support and comfort in you and in each other.

We remember in prayer John, Keith and Nancy, who knew Alistair the longest, grew up with him and were close to him to all their lives. May they find the peace only you can give.

We remember Iain and all Alistair's many colleagues and friends at work and at church, who lost a companion on life's journey, shared many an office hour, many a friendly chat. May they find comfort in the thought that Alistair is now at peace.

And we include in our prayer the doctors and nurses of the NHS, the staff at Ayrshire hospice, who give all their commitment to patients like Alistair on the frontline and who will grieve for all they cannot save.

As we now return to our daily lives, as we have committed Alistair's body to the grace of God, as we take up our daily lives again, we pray for ourselves, that we may find the time and the courage to grieve for our loss. We pray for the comfort that our grief will give way to the smiles that come from cherished memories.

May you grant us all your love and your peace.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN

Benediction

And now may God comfort you with the assurance of His love. And the God who is higher than all our understanding, God the father, son and holy spirit be with us all now and forever. AMEN

A prayer for the home

Loving God,

You know our hearts, you know our pain, you know how much we long to be with Alistair's family now, how much we long to say good bye to a man we loved and respected, a man who shaped us all in different ways.

We thank you that we had the privilege to have known him, that our lives were richer because he was part of it, however big or small that part was.

We thank you that we were able to accompany Alistair on a part of life's journey and we thank you for the time we can now set apart for Alistair.

Gracious God,

You know our thoughts, you know that as a thousand years are but a day before you, so a thousand miles are just a step, you know that while we must be apart from Alistair and from those he loved, that we cannot offer the comfort of a handshake or a hug, our hearts are with them and our sorrow is sincere.

Grant us all the comfort of your presence, we pray, grant us the assurance of eternal life.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN