

MARGARET (RITA) SCOTT



Introduction

The congregation of St James extends their condolences Rita's friends and family. We are sad that we cannot share your grief as we usually would and hope this memorial will bring some comfort and help Rita's many friends to grieve in their own special way.

THE EULOGY

It is a cause for heartache and for sorrow that we cannot honour Rita's life in the ways that we are used to and in the ways that we long to follow, that we have to find different paths to show our grief. And yet it may be important to many, to now take the time to remember Rita's life, to honour the past, to recognize the pain of the present, to begin facing a future without her and to commend her to God's grace.

Jesus promised that he would prepare a place for Rita and a place for all of us, he promised that he would come again and take us to himself, and so I would first of all like to share with you my firm hope and belief that Rita is now taken into God's care through his son Jesus Christ as he has promised.

And yet, it is hard for all who cared for Rita, that she is now beyond our reach, beyond our touch and so let us take the time to share the sorrow

we feel for a person who was important to all who now grieve for her, wherever we are, let us take time to share the memories of who Rita was and let us make these memories a connection between us all beyond the distance we are forced to keep.

Margaret Nicoll Scott, whom most of us knew and loved as Rita, was born in Gardiner Street, Prestwick on 10 January 1933 to Jimmy Nicoll, a joiner and his wife Nellie as the youngest of three children. The closeness to the seaside and sandy beach of Prestwick was a source of attraction for the wider family, who all stayed in Glasgow, and so young Rita, together with her brother Jim and her sister Ella had regular playmates in the cousins from the city who came to visit on a regular basis.

After school Rita took up office work and was based in many locations throughout her career. Whether it was Ayr, in a Glasgow bakery or in her brother's joinery business in Prestwick, she enjoyed her work.

While Rita was working in a grocery shop in Elmbank Street, a young customer called Billy was of special significance. Billy was in and out of the shop and I suspect he may have come more frequently than was strictly necessary. In any case these chance encounters lead to the marriage of Rita and Billy in 1961 and to the birth of their three children, Helen, Billy and Wendy, who all grew up in the shadow of St James as the couple moved to Falkland Park Road in 1963, shortly after Billy was born. This decision proved to be a lucky one and Rita was happy there, as the neighbourhood in that street was supportive and friendly and people looked out for each other. Rita was a lifelong member of the church around the corner and the children all came through the Sunday School and through the Boys' Brigade or Guides there.

Rita's life though knew tragedy and sorrow, as she lost her husband Billy at the young age of 38 and from then on, she dedicated her life to bringing up her three children on her own, a feat that required considerable sacrifice and determination on her part. When the children were grown though, one of her many friends "dragged" Rita to the bowling club in Northfield Avenue. Rita quickly caught the bug and became a successful and accomplished bowler, winning the President's Cup and other trophies many times. In her quieter hours Rita was an avid crossword puzzler and also loved to read, the novels of Catherine Cookson being one of her favourites.

Rita's delight was her family, a close-knit unit, and it was not least her merit that they were all kept together. In the summer, everyone, aunties, uncles, cousins, kids would all spend their holidays in a caravan in Kirkcudbright and later she took great joy in her grandchildren. Rita was a generous babysitter, giving her children some breathing space and spoiling their offspring. Despite her failing health Rita was able to see her two great-grandchildren, her pride and joy, as the family came on a surprise visit with Rosco and Rogan. Rita always treasured this as "the best surprise she ever had in her life".

Rita had not been as mobile as she used to be for the last one and a half years and given that she had always been an active woman that must have been hard on her. She did, however, cope cheerfully and made the best of the situation. And her bravery will have stood her in good stead when she was admitted to hospital four weeks ago. A loss is always hard to bear and there is no denying the pain that these difficult times cause and so the only comfort I can offer is to share my sincere belief, that Rita is now beyond

pain and sadness, that she is at peace in the place that was prepared for her. AMEN

