

Margaret (Daisy) Thomson



Introduction

At St James we feel Daisy's loss and would like to extend our condolences to all her family and friends. Daisy was a valued member and much loved in our church family and will be missed so much. We hope that these words bring comfort to you all, whether pay their respect in person, or cannot do so in these challenging times.

The Service

Gathering/ Call

The Grace and the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. The Bible says: Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours and their works will follow them. We have gathered here in this sad hour to take our leave of our sister Margaret Taylor Thomson, whom we all knew and loved as Daisy, to remember her life with sadness and with gratitude and to commend her to God's grace,

We remember Daisy with sadness because a loved and loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend is no longer with us, we remember her with gratitude for a long and happy life. A life that we can no longer touch, but that is still, as I firmly believe in God's good hands, as was promised to us when Jesus said I will be with you to the end of days. Not all who would like to be here can grieve together with us, but we know that Daisy was loved and cherished by many, that their thoughts are with us now and that God is with us all, wherever we are.

Prayer

Gracious God,

You have promised to be our rock and our salvation, that your comfort will surround us all the days of our lives, that you will not forsake us in times of grief. And so, we bring our loss and our grief before you in the trust that we are under your care. And in this trust, we bring to you in gratitude Daisy's life, all that she was to those who knew and loved her. We give you thanks for her strong and resilient nature, for her hard work and active life, for the love and affection she gave and received. May it be a comfort to all that Daisy's life was a rich and fulfilled one

We thank you for the happy and loving memories rooted in Daisy's childhood, the affection she bore to her siblings, the close relationship she had with her sister Lizzy. We thank you for the precious memories Daisy was able to share with her family, with her sons and daughter, with her grandchildren throughout her life, for memories that will stay with those who knew Daisy and loved her as a comfort and encouragement in times when grief and loss threaten to become overwhelming. May those memories of love and care be a sign for the unfailing love that you have shown to us.

We give you thanks for the friendships Daisy forged, for the affection and admiration she inspired wherever she went, for her strong faith and her loyalty to her church St James, Daisy's spiritual home. May it be a comfort to all of us that Daisy died trusting in God and in Jesus.

We give you thanks for your promise that as your son Jesus Christ has risen from the dead you will raise us all to eternal life, where weakness and pain give way to joy and comfort, In this sad hour let us all remember that you have sent your son, so none of us is lost, that we will all be raised to eternal life , let us live in the assurance that Daisy has now found a resting place with you, as we all will.

Loving God,

You know that times of grief and loss can be overwhelming for us, that we are bowed down with sorrow and yet are denied the opportunity to grieve and bid farewell as we would like to in these difficult times. May we be able to seek and find your comfort in times of pain and may we be assured that you keep us in your loving hand.

Loving God, we know that you have loved us before we were born and that your son has given his life as a ransom for many. We entrust Daisy and ourselves to your loving care in this time of sadness and grief.

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

Readings

Reading OT: Isaiah 25,7-9

On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

⁹In that day they will say: "Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Reading NT: Corinthians 15, 51-55

⁵¹Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."^[h]

⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"

Eulogy

Let us now take the time to remember Daisy 's life, the love she gave and the love she received, let us honour the happy memories and the sad, let us give thanks for a fulfilled and meaningful life and then commend her to God's grace.

The apostle Paul gives us hope that the body of this earth will be raised into the power and imperishable glory of the resurrection through Jesus Christ and I would like to share with you my firm hope and belief that Daisy is now taken into God's care as he has promised through his apostle .

And yet, it is hard for all who loved Daisy, shared her life that she is now beyond our reach and so let us take the time to share the sorrow we feel for a person who was important to all who have come here and to all who are remembering her from afar. So, let us now take time to share the memories of who Daisy was and these memories are based on the thoughts of Tommy and Nan.

Margaret Taylor Thomson, better known to us all as Daisy, was born on the 14th December 1917 to Robina and Robert Simson at Dalduff Smiddy, Fisherton, Dunure, where her father was a blacksmith. She would remember the huge open fire and bellows of her childhood home and those who knew Daisy even just a little recognized in her a fearless force to be reckoned with. The huge Clydesdale horses her father had to shoe were one of the few exceptions in her life and as a little girl she used to hide till the work was over and the horses at a safe distance.

Daisy was the middle child of five and she outlived all of them. She was educated at Fisherton School, Dunure until she was almost 14 years old when the family moved to Lanark, so her father could concentrate on farming. She spent her teenage years at Damhill Farm, Kirkfieldbank working there with her brothers Robin, William and David and sister Lizzy, to whom she was particularly close throughout her life. On every alternate

Saturday, the sisters used to visit each other for tea and Lizzy's death was hard on Daisy.

In late 1943 her family moved back to Ayrshire when her father took on the tenancy of Drumochreen Farm, Kilkerran. This became a meeting place for all the extended family and many happy memories were created there! Daisy's young life, however, was not without tragedy, as she lost her eldest brother Robin at the young age of 21.

On 23rd December 1943 at Dailly Parish Church she married her childhood sweetheart John who was home on leave from the 2nd World War. John and Daisy grew up together, as John's mother died young when he was only 3 years old and John insisted from early childhood that he would one day marry Daisy. They were together for 57 years until John's death in December 2000 and their young love was only interrupted by the war.

After John returned home in 1946, they moved into rented accommodation in Ayr. Shortly after Tommy was born, they all moved to Annbank to stay with John's Aunt Maggie. They stayed there for four years during which time Robert was born. In 1952 they purchased 1 Bellesleyhill Avenue, Ayr which was to be Daisy's home until March of this year! Nan was born three years after the move to Ayr.

Daisy's family grew when Tommy married Aileen, Robert Karen and Nan got married to Dick and Daisy and she was subsequently able to welcome seven grandchildren into the world: Lorraine, Colin, Alistair, Stuart, Shona, Francesca and Martin. Later Daisy delighted in her seven great grandchildren - Lucy, Adam, Oliver, Daisy, Evie, Harvey and Grace. She would talk with pride and affection of all her family as she sat by the fireside in Bellsleyhill Avenue.

Looking back on Daisy's life it must be admitted that times were hard after the 2nd World war! Luckily, Daisy has always been a resourceful and resilient lady and so despite rationing the family

was always provided for. She was a loving and caring mother and a good friend to many! However, if you stepped out of line, she would let you know! Tommy still recalls his mum chasing him up the garden with the floor brush! He then locked himself in the bathroom until it was safe to come out! Daisy was small in stature but mighty in spirit!

Daisy had many hobbies and interests-

She was a great baker renowned for her pancakes and scones, especially on a Saturday morning when family and friends would visit to sample. She also enjoyed cooking for friends and family. Knitting was another interest, and her family all appreciated her talent in this. She loved her little garden in which she grew flowers and sweet peas and still produced tomatoes when she was 101 years old.

In her fifties Daisy worked in the Country Club doing holiday or illness cover on the sweet counter or cash desk. This was a new experience for her as she had never received a pay packet before! She loved it!

Daisy was a member of St James' church for 68 years and the church played a big part in Daisy's as well as in John's life! John was senior elder for many years and Daisy attended almost every Sunday until March of this year! She was a member of the Woman's Guild, the Drama Group (many years ago), the Scottish Country Dance group and latterly the ChitChat Club. She was kindhearted and generous and supported the church in whatever way she could, for instance with her legendary tablet. She was grateful to her neighbours and friends Irene and Dorothy and to her friend Ina who would take her to the church that meant so much to her.

Daisy was an adventurous and active lady and loved driving! She was always on the move! She was forced to give up her driving gloves at 94 years of age due to her failing eyesight. In the later days of her driving she encountered a cow on the high road from

Maybole to Ayr. It rammed the side of her car before running off and undeterred Daisy drove on home! She was known as Dashing Daisy!

Holidays were another of Daisy's adventures! She enjoyed visiting places of interest in Europe, America and Britain. Arran was a particular favourite and she went there every year for many years! At the age of 87 she visited Texas to attend her grandson Colin's wedding! She had a ball! After John's death holidays abroad continued when she joined Robert, Karen and family on their summer break! This continued until Daisy was in her late nineties. She loved swimming every day in the sunshine!

In March of this year sadly Daisy had a fall which resulted in her being hospitalized. During the Lockdown she was transferred to Templeton House for Nursing Care under challenging circumstances. Whilst sad not to be at home Daisy spoke really fondly of the staff who she said were so good to her! What a tribute to them! On Tuesday 13th October Daisy passed away shortly after being transferred to Ayr Hospital, it may be a consolation to all, that her loving family raced to her bedside as soon as they received the telephone call from the hospital and that Lorraine was at her side, holding her hand to the last. It seems only fitting as Daisy's family were the biggest part of her life! She had always been at the parties or celebrations joining in the fun! Daisy had a wonderful life! She was a friend to many and a loving mother, gran and great gran to all her family.

She touched many lives and her family have been consoled by the loving comments said or sent to them – "Daisy's was a life well lived; She was a legend, a wonderful person, a great character, a lovely inspirational person and it was a privilege to have known her!"

Daisy's passing is a loss to all who knew her! And yet there is hope, hope that death has not gained victory over her, hope that

she is now with the God she always believed in, in light and in glory, as we all will be one day. AMEN

Committal

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, ^{la} neither the present nor the future, , neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.₂

Margaret Taylor Daisy Thomson is committed into the hands of God. 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 a long and fulfilled life, for a lady who loved and was loved, a lady who left a mark in the life of those around her and will not be forgotten and in offering our thanks we bring before you those who were closest to Daisy.

We pray for Tommy and Aileen, for Robert and Karen, For Nan and Dick, who knew Daisy best, who have the greatest reason to be grateful to her for what she has done for them since childhood, for welcoming them into the family as her children's wives and husband, and for the care she extended not only to them but also to their children.

Let them find the courage to grieve and the space to reflect on all that was and then grant to them the peace that is not of this world.

We hold in prayer Lorraine and Colin, Alistair, Francesca and Martin, Stewart and Shona, who share their parents pain, who lost a proud grandmother in Daisy and who will feel her loss keenly, a loss that cannot be replaced. And we include in our prayers Lucy and Adam, Oliver and Daisy, Evie and Grace and Harvey, who will remember their great grandmother in stories and pictures

May they all find comfort in you and in the support of those who love them.

We pray for Irene, Dorothy and Ina and for Daisy's many friends and large family, who all accompanied her on a part of lives journey, who were important to Daisy and she to them. May they all find the peace that only you can give,

We pray for the staff at Templeton House and for the doctors and nurses of Ayr hospital, who give their best to care for patients like Daisy in challenging times and who will feel the helplessness and sadness when there is a life they cannot save.

Let them keep their commitment and resilience in their work so they may be able to continue serving our community.

As we turn now from this place into the world,
As we return to our daily lives of work and rest,
As we return to a life that is changed because a loved mother and grandmother and great grandmother, a lady we cared for and were close to is no longer here, is beyond our reach, we pray for ourselves. We pray that our troubled hearts may find rest,
We ask that we can find comfort in you and in each other,
That we will find the peace you have promised to us and to everyone.

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 Daisy's friends and family now, how much we long to say good bye to her, a lady who shaped us all in different ways.

We thank you that we had the privilege to have known her, that our lives were richer because she was part of it, however big or small that part was. We thank you that we were able to accompany Daisy on a part of life's journey and we thank you for the time we can now set apart for her.

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 Daisy and from those close to her, 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