

Mary Beattie



Introduction

As the congregation of St James, of which Mary was such a faithful member, many of us are sad that we could not say good bye as we would normally do. We hope this eulogy brings some comfort to the family and to Mary's many friends.

Eulogy

This is an opportunity to remember Mary's life, honour the happy memories, the times of challenge, and then commend her to God's grace. We share with compassion and understanding what is being felt by all who loved and shared Mary's life. We share the sadness for a lady who was important to all who have come here today.

Mary Goudie McNab Beattie, better known to most of us as "wee Mary" was born in Quail Road, Ayr, on the 30th of April 1933, to Arthur and Kate McNab. the family have Mary's Dad. Mary had a sister Anne who died very young.

Mary's Dad died when she was three, and despite her childhood being difficult she got through it. A lot of her time was spent with relatives on Skye.

Mary attended Heathfield and the Grammar Schools. When she left school her first job was on the shop floor of the Cooperative in Prestwick Road. Then she went to work in the "big stamp-work in West Sanquhar Road.

Mary like many of her generation met her husband Bob at the Bobby Jones Dancing. They were married on the 11th of October 1963. However, this was only because Mary had given Bob an ultimatum as he was dithering about asking the important question.

Their first home was in New Cumnock, where Bob was a Miner. It was a very short stay because Mary didn't like the place, and told Bob she was going back to Ayr, and he could come if he wanted. They moved to the present family home. Kathriona arrived on the scene in 1964.

They had a very happy family life together. Bob passed away in 1999.

Mary was very much a family person and took a lot of pleasure looking after her grandchildren Rosalyn and Eilidh. She was so well known at their school that she was affectionately called "Wee Granny Beattie". She was probably the Head Cook and Bottle Washer.

Mary was a very sociable person and made people feel at ease no matter the company. Although quiet by nature, she had a steely determination, and no one would mess with her.

She was willing to turn her hand to anything. Mary enjoyed her shopping trips. She never left the house without a handbag which had to have tissues and a rain-mate. The family insisted she include her mobile phone, although that was a bit pointless because she always switched it off to save the battery.

Kathriona reckons that her Mum single handed saved Waterstone's Coffee Shop from closing. If you met Mary in town she was usually heading for her coffee. We are not sure if she even got a staff discount.

Mary's faith was an important part of her life. Mary was a committed member of St James' Church from the time the family moved to Ayr; and supported the various activities. It was only recently that her attendances became less regular. At the beginning of this year her health began to deteriorate although she never complained, and sadly she passed away in the Ayrshire Hospice on 13th March, surrounded by her loving family. We share the hope that Mary is at peace and free from pain, safely in the hands of her Lord

Bill Mackie, Session Clerk

A Prayer for the Home

Loving God

Your apostle has promised us that nothing in this world or beyond can separate us from your love, no barrier, no distance can come between you and Mary, can come between you and us, and so we remember Mary each in our own way, wherever we are, bring our pain before you, knowing that you see our hearts, see our grief.

And when we return to our daily lives, a life that is no longer what it was because someone we cared for is no longer here and leaves a gap in our hearts,

we pray that we may be comforted in the assurance, that Mary is now with you in a place without suffering or pain, we ask that we find the courage to grieve and the strength to say farewell, we ask that we can find strength in you and in each other, as you said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11,28/30)

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN