

MAY KELLY



Introduction

May had many friends among the congregation of St James and many more, who accompanied her on her life's journey. Many would have liked to pay their respects and get to know her from a family point of view. We are grateful therefore to Graham and Alistair for making their thoughts available to us. We keep May's family in our prayers. We regret that for technical reasons we cannot include the beautiful photos.

Mary (May) Kelly 1931 -2020

Mum once said, not that long ago... "I've had a good life, a family, opportunities to work with nice people and travel to many places, so I have no regrets" In the last chapter of her life, she was determined to make the most of the situation she was in.

On Saturday 21 March 1931 Helen Bannatyne and her husband James Bannatyne became parents of a baby girl named Mary Cringan Kelly

Mary who preferred to be known as May lived with her parents in Douglas Lanarkshire. The address of the house was originally Hillside Place, but when additional houses in the form of prefabs were built on Springhill Road the address was changed to 54 Springhill Road

Mum was educated at the Douglas school and following the 2nd World War she went on to attend college at Motherwell. Mum's working life began at Douglas Post Office. With the experience she gained she would go on to work in 12 different post offices during her working life.

On the 13 May 1950, mum and gran were travelling on a train near Preston that collided with a stationary train. Whilst both survived relatively unscathed 68 people were injured to varying degrees. This incident would cause mum to have a fear for enclosed spaces and of train travel for the rest of her life.

Finding Douglas village life restricting and looking for more out of life, mum moved to Ayr and worked for the Post Office whilst living at the YWCA in Charlotte Street. It was at the Young Women's Christian Association she quickly made a lot of new friends, a number of which would become lifelong friends.

It was whilst working at the Sandgate Post Office that she met and fell in love with William Kelly, a Postman who worked at the sorting office on the Sandgate. Following their courtship, they married in Douglas in 1956 and bought a house in Green Street, Ayr. They bought the house for the princely sum of £250. With the support of our Papa, mum's dad, they had a front door fitted to the close which they shared with their neighbour. As the toilet was at the end of their garden, Papa built them an indoor toilet. They stayed in this house for about 18 months before selling it for £500 to our Great Grandmother, our dad's gran who had just returned from the USA.

After doubling their money on the Green Street house, they bought 13 North Park Avenue for around a £1,000. This would be the house that Allister and I were to be brought up in.

Mum and dad provided Allister and I with a warm and secure upbringing whilst mum often worked part-time in sub post offices covering the sub postmaster for holidays. The offices included;

| | | | |
|---------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Dunure | Prestwick | Wallacetown | Berelands Road |
| Butlins | Prestwick Toll | Tams Brig | |
| Troon | Newton head | Alloway | |

During the 60s and 70s mum and dad took Allister and I on annual holidays to various resorts throughout England. Often our Gran and Papa would squeeze into our rather small Hillman minx and all six of us with a roof rack on the car would go to the likes of

| | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|
| Scarborough | Skegness | Torquay |
| Filey | Ripon | Torbay |

In 1975 mum and dad sold North Park Avenue for £6,000 and moved us across town to Holmston where they bought 48 St Phillans Avenue for £10,000

During the 80s and 90s mum and dad enjoyed a lot of foreign travel visiting many countries. In 1996, we were all invited to America to celebrate their 40th wedding

anniversary where we enjoyed the fun and entertainment that Disney Land had to offer. A holiday that I still recall with fond memories.

In 2008 dad was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. With the care and love of our mum he was loved and later cared for by mum under testing circumstances. We will always be grateful for the devotion and commitment she gave to dad right up to his passing on 4 June 2011.

In 2012, she came down to Leeds to help me move into my current home in Garforth Leeds. The house required a lot of work and was in turmoil for several months. Mum helped keep Wallace and Murrion under control whilst the workmen did their thing and allowed me to keep working during this time. Then the workmen left andand.....well.....mum didn't.....not immediately anyway. It was during these months I probably got to know her better than I had over the previous 52 years. It was at this time she became my friend as well as being our mum

Over the next five years mum lead an independent life back in Ayr, one that she was comfortable with and thoroughly enjoyed. Unfortunately, in 2017 after a short period of illness mum had to move into Berelands Care Home. When she moved in, her health was of a concern but with the care and attention she received she soon rallied round..... Rallied round!!!???.she took over the place!!! The care home, which was to be the final chapter of her life, became one of her happiest.

As the Chairman of the Resident's Committee she met regularly with the care home management In fact, Teresa, the care home manager used to say "My door is always open, but if not, go and see May" Mum became a character and the 'face' of Berelands care home. This included many newspaper and video interviews, photo opportunities and the climax being a live appearance on a prime-time Kaye Adams BBC radio Scotland programme representing Berelands' Care Home

Unfortunately, two weeks after her healthy and enjoyable 89th birthday, the Coronavirus without any warning took our mum.

I'd like to finish with a comment that the Bereland's Handyman posted on facebook. It read;

The only woman who had a job for me every day, I had to sneak past her room holding my keys so she wouldn't hear me walking past. It worked for a while until she asked me to move her wardrobe. Then she could see me in the wardrobe mirror sneaking past holding my keys. She was always one step ahead

I thought this just typified our mum in that.....she was always thinking.....she was always one step ahead..... and she always got her way in the end.....

I have always been proud to call this lady..... mum!!!

Time will now work its magic from grief to sadness from longing and aching until a smile and a laugh replaces the tears and the sorrow"

The eulogy was given by May's son Graham

A Prayer for the Home – for May's many friends

Loving God,

We entrust ourselves and our grief to your loving care, we come to you with all our feelings of sadness and of grief for a lady who will be sorely missed, who was the heart and soul of her home in Prestwick, a lady who touched our lives and many others.

You know our souls, you know our hearts, you know how dearly we would have wished to pay our respects to May, you know our sadness at not being able to do so, not being able to show the friendship we feel, but you also know that our care and love for May is beyond restrictions, beyond barriers, that we remember her with honour and fondness, wherever we are.

Gracious God,

Jesus promised that he has prepared a place for all of us in his father's house, that we will live eternally at your side, that we will be given a peace that the world cannot give. Instil in us the hope and the trust that May is now at peace with you as we all will be one day.

AMEN