

TOM ALLAN



Introduction

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Ps 121, verses 1-2).

This is an opportunity for all who were prevented from attending Tom’s funeral to take a moment to remember him. As a church we would like to extend our condolences and hope that this will be a comfort to you.

Eulogy

Tom was born on the 31st May 1935 to Mary and Simpson Allan. He was the youngest of four siblings, and was brought up in Drongan, Ayrshire, where he developed a life-long devotion to the famous Glasgow Rangers football club.

Upon leaving school he went to work in the local coal mines. In his later teenage years he was regularly drawn to the Bobby Jones dance hall in Ayr. This was where he met the love of his life Chree whom he married on 7th July 1962.

Soon afterwards he left his work in the mines and started a new career in the Airport Fire Service at Prestwick where he served for a few years before being transferred to Stanstead in Essex.

Tom and Chree struggled to settle in England and a few years later Tom managed to secure a transfer back home again to Ayrshire where he served for the rest of his career during which he was awarded a twenty five year good conduct medal. On their return from Essex they set up home in Tweed Street and soon after their son, Campbell was born.

As time went by they developed successful guest house businesses in various locations around Ayr and Prestwick which attracted a very loyal clientele. Despite Tom's heavy work schedule he still found time to support Campbell and his friends who were participating in the local junior football leagues; freely giving his time to coach the boys and raise funds for the clubs, for which he developed a reputation of reliability and generosity.

Eventually this heavy work load combined with a down turn in the local tourism business encouraged them to adopt a more leisurely life style and they sold up the business and moved to Alloway. This allowed them to pursue their love of ballroom dancing and develop a stronger social life becoming stalwart members of the R.A.F.A. club.

During this time Campbell married Alwyn and settled in Spain. Tom and Chree celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, and shortly afterwards Campbell and Alwyn welcomed their first born daughter Sofia, and a few years later followed by Elena both of whom greatly enriched their grandparents lives.

Unfortunately but inevitably, old age began to take its toll on both Chree and Tom's health and both suffered increasing bouts of ill health and sadly Chree passed away in 2017 leaving Tom devastated and lonely.

Whilst he struggled to find a new focus for the future, his physical health continued to deteriorate leaving him a shadow of the character he once was.

In short, Tom will be remembered as a kind, generous and modest man, who lived his life following the Christian principles he was taught as a child. He was a dedicated husband, father and grandparent who led by good example and will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Rev Brian Hendrie

A prayer for the home

Loving God,

We come to you in these difficult times, we bring to you the pain and the sorrow that we feel as we cannot take our leave of Tom in person, that we must say our good-byes from afar.

But we also give you thanks for the opportunities we had to share parts of Tom's life, be they great or small and to remember him in our own special way.

We pray for courage as we find new ways to grieve, new ways to pay our respects to a man who shaped the lives of all, who now miss him.

We pray that we find comfort in you and in each other, though we are apart, as we entrust Tom to God's grace, as we adjust to a life without Tom, as we go into this world.

We ask that we can find peace and strength, a peace that is beyond our understanding, that can dry our tears.

For this we pray in Jesus name. AMEN