

It's lovely to see so many people here.

Miranda's official funeral was this morning at Loughborough crematorium.

Our meeting here is a memorial service to commemorate her life and mark her passing.

Dave, Miranda and their sons didn't want a religious service, but felt that the church was the proper place for the commemoration. They are grateful to Mary Samuel and the church for allowing the use of the building for this non religious service. There are plates about if you would like to help a little with church costs. Of course, we understand that the church setting may well be helpful to many of you. Mary is here in a non official capacity as a guest, but I'm sure she would be happy to speak to anyone should they wish.

Dave and the boys want to say how much they have appreciated all the words of support over the last few days – “everyone has been lovely”.

Because there are people here from so many different aspects of Miranda's life, we thought it would be nice to provide a brief resume of her life, because we realise that many of you will know her just from one or two of them.

Thankyou to the many people who have sent memories of her. We will include some of them as we go. All will be available on the website later – if you don't have details, there are some strips of paper at the back of the church with the web address.

We originally didn't intend to have any charity connected to her memorial, but so many people asked, that we have set up a memorial collection for “Practical Action” which was Miranda's favourite cause. Details are on the website, or just ask us if you would like.

After the service, please come over the road to the Three Crowns where there is a buffet and of course beer!

We will then keep open house at 26 church street.

Miranda spent her childhood in Marple near Stockport. Miranda's sister is here and would like to say a few words.

Trudy to speak.....Miranda's sister

Being a sensible girl, Miranda chose a vocational degree and went to Aberystwyth University to study librarianship.

She met Dave in their first year there and they have been together ever since. Almost 40 years.

They enjoyed a great education at Aberystwyth – academically, but more generally as well. It was a great place to grow up and many strong friendships continue from that time.

17) Rob and Marion.....friends from University

17) Rob and Marion

Miranda was our bargain-hunting buddy and we always enjoyed visits to charity shops, jumble sales and the occasional auction with her. She had a good eye for interesting objects, crockery, clothes, books as her beautiful house testifies.

The last time we saw her was last October in Somerset when we spent some lovely time together. Miranda one evening examined an old small brass bed-warmer which we've got hanging up on the wall next to a large copper one. I explained it was home-made but not a very good design as the lid didn't close tightly enough. Ah, sez she, could it be a chestnut roasting pan instead?

Indeed the very next day we picked up pocketfuls of chestnuts when out walking and put it to that very use. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire... brilliant!

We've got so many happy memories of holidays and visits especially when our children were young and we had so much fun together. Miranda was always such a good companion and we thought the world of her.

20) Lucy friend from Aberystwyth who was a child in those days

20) Lucy

Miranda was always, from my childhood, til now, so kind and understanding and calm. I suppose those are the qualities I think of most when I think of Miranda. As well as tolerant. By that I mean how good she was when Hilary died, and how happy she was for the three of us to go away cycling in Portugal, and how she listened to our stories of the trip afterwards without seeming at all envious!

I remember her eating the last potato at our house, it must have been decades ago. Actually, I don't remember her eating it, but whoever had the last potato from, then on, would elicit the exclamation 'Oh Miranda!', so I remember that more, and I know it was based on fact!

And I remember her always cooking great healthy meals, her home made bread, and the hospitality at your house. And it may have been Miranda who introduced the concept of hunting for a bargain, and indeed searching out 'ethnic' things. When we stayed with you, we would go out to a market or shopping somewhere, and I would ask 'what are we doing?' - a good question... we were always bargain hunting.

They then spent a few years in Brighton before Miranda got "a grown up job".

These are some memories from then.

1) Ros..... friend from Brighton

1) Ros

i remember big steaming pressure cooker pots of mixed bean stew - (beans from infinity foods and bargain veg from the market). i remember getting up at 7 on saturday mornings - and we were students, dont forget, - to get to the saturday morning flea market, not to miss out on the bargains - 7.30 was way too late - and then bacon sandwiches, bread pudding and coffee at the rumbling tum. i'm still eating off the plates we bought and have only just put away some of the velvet curtains.

2) Nick friend from Brighton

2) Nick

I remember with such happiness getting to know you both in Brighton: such an immediate and overwhelming sense of warmth and friendship. Strange really that such a profound and enduring relationship can be rooted in days and nights the precise content of which, for many reasons, I can't always recall in fine detail. Of Miranda though I do have visions of: masterful control of that ferocious Honda 50 (or could it have been a 90?); the most show-stopping style of dart throwing ever seen in Sussex; a healthy, brave and very welcome disregard for student bullshit (a product highly characteristic of Sussex University at the time); a passion for collecting bargains from Brighton

market (and breakfasts afterwards at the Rumbling Tum); sharing gigs, new music and dreadful jokes; and generally walking through that age of innocence together with nothing to get in the way of our friendship.

When we last visited, before Christmas, it was no different, except that we were probably a little bit better behaved. The walk across the fields, chatting as though we had never been interrupted by the years, and stopping for lunch at the pub with no food, was the perfect reminder of how things and situations really don't matter but special people do. And walking back home, stopping every five minutes to talk to someone in the village (or, for light relief, to wait for Miranda to sort out a renegade foul water drain) gave us just another series of reminders that Miranda was a hugely energetic, connected, committed and loved person. What a privilege to have been her friend across the years!

Miranda's job was in the library at the University of Nottingham school of agriculture in Sutton Bonington and we have some memories from her colleagues there

3) *Stan.....work colleague*

3) *Stan Cramer*

We worked together for some 10 years in the Library after Mike Smith moved to the main campus. Miranda was wonderful as a "boss" never put out even when I got a Midland Agricultural College 1900 poster framed at some £45 for display in the Library - she just gulped! Always cheerful and a very good colleague to work with.

4) *Andy.....work colleague*

4) *Andy Taylor*

Miranda was a great asset to Sutton Bonington as she brought to the library a friendly approach, backed up by a deep knowledge of library systems. In the days when scientists had to read through large tomes to discover what had already been done in their area of research, clear guidance was needed to get the best result. She was ably assisted in this role when Mike Smith joined the library and the team provided a fabulous level of service to academics and students.

Outside her library duties, Miranda had a wicked sense of fun and joined in various wheezes to make the interminable Faculty Board meetings (which we were forced to attend) more enjoyable. She volunteered to organise a sweepstake, the basis of which was to guess how many times during the meeting the Dean would say "splendid" and when the first utterance of the word occurred. Most academics sitting round the table, had stakes in this, and Miranda managed to retain an air of professional detachment during the meeting and faithfully record the utterances and then announce the winners and pay them out in the tea break.

Most of all, Miranda was a great support to me when I was Warden of the Hall of Residence. At times, the Warden's job involved extremely difficult decisions with no clear black or white outcome and no-one to give advice or act as a sounding board. Miranda was always willing to listen to my dilemmas and quandaries at work (Dave taught me the difference between these two words!) and I spent many evenings in the tranquillity of Dave and Miranda's company in Shepshed, drinking wine, eating "glob" pie and relaxing in the homely environment they created.

They lived in Hathern, for 3 years then spent 10 years in Shepshed . They were married in 1979 and Dave's mum and dad welcomed her to the family.

5) Vic and Dorothy Noble.....Dave's mum and dad

5) Vic and Dorothy Noble

Miranda was a very special person, she brought lots of joy into our lives.

We never thought of her as a "daughter in law " to us she was a much loved daughter,

When Sam, Hugh and Will were born. Miranda took maternity leave and then returned to work, leaving Dave as house-husband.

In 1989 they moved to Church Street, Wymeswold – the house and village that she loved.

So many people from the village have been lovely over the last few days – thankyou.

19) Jay and Jeanie

19) Jay and Jeanie

Our random memories of Miranda in no particular order

... home-made bread rolls at the courtyard BBQ for the Queen's Jubilee; walking our dogs and hugging trees (she knows which one); talking about the Archers, the University of Nottingham and anything of interest in the Guardian; sharing food (cooked and uncooked) and wine (but not retsina); ringing Miranda and asking 'did she know the number, person, opening hours of..' and she did; cakes; Christmas and silly games; the bay leaf tree, she gave us for our civil partnership, along with its ancient meaning.... we remember Miranda's intelligence and kindness ... we will miss Miranda.

Mick and Zara from next door can't be here today, but Rachel would like to read something from them.

Rachel to speak. Reading 18)

18) Mick and Zara

The first is the memory of meeting Miranda and Dave for the first time. We moved into number 24 in the summer of 1992, and walking past the house next door, we peered through the large wooden gates into the garden, and knew straightaway that this must belong to people we would like to be friends with. Later that day Miranda called at our house, invited us round for drinks, made us welcome, introduced us to the village. We've been going round for drinks, and food and friendship ever since.

The second is the simple memory of that everyday friendship. At the end of the day, asking and being asked, "What are you doing about food tonight?" and sharing the impromptu meal. Strolling to the 3 Crowns together – in earlier days perhaps the Hammer or the White Horse instead. Asking for favours – cat-sitting, key holding, watering the plants – and the generosity with which they were always offered. There were all sorts of highs and lows as well – family crises and family celebrations: but mainly there was just the warmth of the everyday.

The last memory is just from Zara. When she was recovering from her first bout of cancer Miranda asked if I wanted to do a day of Greek dancing in the village hall. We discovered and shared a love of circle dancing together, enjoying a week's holiday dancing in the south of France. Miranda's favourite dance is Lo Yise Goy, it is about peace turning swords into plough shares. When I last saw Miranda she asked me to dance this for her. I will.

At work, librarianship was becoming old hat and information technology was the new thing. Various re-organisations saw her move from Sutton Bonington to the main campus in Nottingham. This also took her away from dealing with library customers and more into administration. She never really enjoyed her work as much in that role and when more reorganisations offered the chance of early retirement she didn't have to think about it for long and she left work in 2005. I'm afraid to report to her colleagues who are here today, that she didn't miss it much!.... and was constantly grateful that she was offered the chance to retire early.

The pleasure of her new-found spare time was rather spoilt by the diagnosis of breast cancer which came at about the same time. She spent several spells in hospital and although facing follow up checks was always a worry she was completely clear of cancer from then. She had just had her 6 year "all clear" and is keen that the many (too many!), friends she has who have been affected by breast cancer, know that the doctor said he thought the new illness was not related to her original breast cancer.

6) *Elizabeth.....friend from hospital*

6)Elizabeth Worrall

I met Miranda in the breast cancer ward at Glenfield five years ago. She was an inspiration to Tricia and I - so positive and determined to get better as soon as possible -and determined that we would get better too - she had us out of bed and doing all the arm exercises at least twice a day - and it worked - thank you Miranda.

She enjoyed skiing holidays with family and friends and many of you here will have happy memories of skiing days at the Rempstone Alps.

John to speak..... nothing written

In the last few years she and Dave developed a love affair with an area in the South of Crete where they bought some land and were intending to build a house. Part of her heart is there and she wants some of her ashes there, as well as her plot in Wymeswold cemetery. There are some pictures of their bit of Crete here in the church – have a look after the service – it's beautiful.

7) *Geoff and Stephanie.....friends from University and Crete*

7)Geoff and Stephanie

Geoff met Miranda at university in Aberystwyth, in her first term when we were 18 and 19. I have many happy memories of times there - boating on the lake at Nanteos, sitting on the Prom and evenings in the old student union and the Angel...

and later as we made our first homes and became parents we kept in touch and our children enjoyed each other's company in Sussex , Shepshed and

Wymeswold. Although between us we numbered 4 adults 6 children and on occasions up to 3 dogs our times together seemed easy and relaxing - and much of that was due to Miranda's calming influence and kind nature. In the forty years we have been friends she didn't really change - she was always lovely.

Over the years we all enjoyed looking for bargains in Brighton, Rye and Melton market as well as cuttings, produce and plans for our gardens. In recent years we have met up in Crete several times and both keenly followed progress or lack of it in each other's projects. This June Dave and Miranda came to our house in Crete and showed us their plans over lunch and we shared their excitement about this and we always thought we would carry on sharing these good days.

11) a random note from Anna in Italy – sister in law

11) Anna in Italy

You know I am as mad as those mad Doctors that you have seen....but late last Saturday night I went to the back of the house where it was pitch dark, I could detect a sweet smell of burning (no fires here in July and too far from a BBQ) and I felt absolutely sure that Miranda's spirit passed close by meshe was on her way to Crete....

After many years of trying to persuade Dave to dance, Miranda gave up and joined some circle dancing groups, dancing mostly South and Eastern European traditional dances, which she loved.

8) Nicky

8) Nicky Greenwood

"Thank you Miranda for all you brought to our circle dance group at Loughborough - your gentle yet assured presence, your grace and thoughtfulness, and your infectious love of the dance and the music. We will all miss you greatly."

9) Angela

9) Angela

we danced together at the Spectrum Centre. I remember Miranda as a careful, thoughtful person, with endless patience with my 2 left feet while dancing her beloved dances.

10) Joanne

10) Joanne

my lasting memory of Miranda was when we were once doing a dance that meant us pretending to be elephants...!! I had to hold her tail and she my trunk (I think..?) anyway we couldn't do this for hysterical laughter and couldn't look at each other for the rest of the night in case we burst into laughter again. From then onwards if a tricky step or imitation of something was required of us we would look at each other and give a look as if to say "don't laugh, please don't laugh!" Very happy memories of a very lovely lady.

Here is some music which she loved to dance to. It is from Crete so combines two of her loves.

Play music

Read translation

Here is a translation

Give me a line so that I can walk

Give me a name so I won't get lost

Give me a dream, a dream to hold on to

Give me a vision to help me resist

Give me a child to make my confessions to

Give me a kiss to wash away the evil

Many people here will know Miranda as Wymeswold Parish Clerk. She was also secretary to the local Parochial Charities and she enjoyed both jobs. She loved the involvement they gave her in the life of the community and enjoyed almost all aspects of the work.

12) *Mike Sheldrake*

12) *Mike Sheldrake – Charnwood Highways*

I know I am writing on behalf of all of the officers in my team who have had dealings with Miranda when I say that we held her in the highest regard and thought of her with real affection. In all of our dealings with Miranda, whether by email, letter, telephone or face-to-face, she has been nothing other than committed to her task and always in the most helpful, pleasant and understanding way. She was clearly no "jobbing" clerk but had a real passion for the village, reflected in her enthusiasm for finding solutions to every issue that she raised with us. Always conducting her duties with a gentle thoroughness and a care for everyone involved.

12) *Bill Cassell*

13) *Bill Cassell Hoton parish council*

Those of us who knew her will remember a delightful personality with a lovely sense of humour; others will simply be aware that being a thoroughly conscientious and highly-efficient Clerk to the Council was just one of the ways in which she made a significant contribution to the life of the village. For these and many other reasons she will be greatly missed.

13)

Nick to speak nothing written

We think she died with very few regrets about things left undone. Most importantly she knows her sons are OK – very sad, but OK. She and Dave spent time talking and genuinely believe, that if you can say that, anything else is a bonus.

Will to speak

14) *Will Noble*

Even though my mum is no longer with us I find strength in the thought I have, and will continue to learn new skills in life that have been passed down from her.

Whether it be planting my very own vegetable patch or discovering new recipes with lentils. Or even when I have children of my own I will know how to deal with temper tantrums as well as the aftermath of an awkward parents evening.

I owe so much to her and will continue to do so. She was the best mum a son could hope for. Even though she has left my life early, I will forever feel lucky to have a mum like mine.

Hugh to speak

16) Hugh

At the moment, everything I see and every avenue of thought I follow leads me to memories of my mum. This is indicative of the hole that her absence will leave in my life, but it also wonderful to know that having so very many memories means that her absence will never be complete.

I have so many ways in which I will remember her and so many reasons to be grateful: Any time I dazzle a friend with some distinctive Noble cuisine; a whole meal, for example, consisting solely of different kinds of delicious 'slop', it will be thanks to my mum. Any time I win a point at table tennis using a sliced forehand, it will be thanks to my mum. Any time I helpfully correct somebody's poor grammar, it will be thanks to my mum. Every time I finish a book I will wonder if she would have enjoyed it. Every time I write a song I will wonder if it would be too miserable for her to listen to! Every day there will be something that makes me think of her.

In this difficult time for my family, I know it is a great comfort to each of us to know that all the people in this room and countless more who are unable to be here today will carry with them their own memories of my mum, and that whenever life throws us something that reminds us of her, we will remember her with a smile.

I will miss my mum terribly and I would have dearly loved to have her around to carry on the wonderful job she has always done of looking after me and helping me through life. My overwhelming feeling though is one of happiness and gratitude for the 27 years I had with her. My dad, my brothers and I are all very proud to have had Miranda as a part of our family, and I know just how proud she would be to see the way we have helped and supported each other over the last few days.

Sam to speak

21) Sam

Although my Mum has left us much earlier than we would have liked I feel as though I have more than a lifetime of memories and reasons to be proud and thankful for her.

She has shown me how to live my life without having to tell me. If I can live my life with half as much fulfilment and bring a fraction as much joy and happiness into other peoples lives I will be a very happy man.

One of my strongest memories of my Mum will be the strength she showed when battling her breast cancer. When I visited her in hospital it was her who ended up comforting me, not the other way around as I had intended! After recovering from this she has lived her life to the fullest and in these years after I have seen her enjoy her life the most.

*I am so proud to be stood here celebrating her life in front of so many friends
in the village that she loves.
I will miss her so much.*

Most of you will know how quickly this new disease took hold of her – just a month from the first symptoms and just a week from the diagnosis. Her one big regret would be that she didn't have a few weeks to see friends and leave things in order. She would have loved to have spent a bit of time with everyone who is here. We are so proud of her life and we know that she will be missed by so many people. We can't sum things up better than this.

14) Elliot O'tooleson of a friend from University

15) Elliot O'Toole

*Elliot asks me to say something, "he feels really sad and he is so sorry for
you*

We'd like you to listen to one more piece of music that Miranda loved – it's a beautiful song about leaving.

Then we'll go to the pub.

Play music