

4th July 2021

Welcoming—A Masterclass

A number of people have asked for a copy of the beautiful tribute, given at Pamela Skipwith's funeral, by her very good friend Nell Frizzell; so, we thought we would reproduce it here. As we remind ourselves this week about our desire to be a welcoming church, it seems fitting to reflect on how Pamela really modelled that for us.

In Nell's words...

Pamela Skipwith, nee Foster, was golden.

The gold of a ring, tapping against a glass of whisky as she spoke and laughed. The gold of an almond, ripened in bright sunlight, surrounded by green. The gold of a kitchen, in the warm morning sun, hazed with steam and cigarette smoke and music. The gold of a Labrador, thwacking its tail against your legs, as great crowds of people pile into a busy hallway. The gold of sunset on an Achill beach, the sky turning to rose and the water into fire.

Like everything precious, Pamela was forged by the coming together of two different materials. Miriam and Tommy. Different languages, different childhoods, different habits, fusing together to create a daughter that sparkled, that drew people towards her, that glowed.

Another thing about gold is that it does not change, does not weaken, does not waver. It lasts. It lasts for years and decades, unchanged, while everything around it moves, transmutes, shifts. And so the love between Pamela and Guy was golden; it lasted from their teenage years until her final day. That is a rare and precious love; one that survives the hurly burly of human life, unendingly. They are a couple to learn from, to admire and to celebrate.

You can take gold across oceans, across countries, deserts and cultures and its worth is evident everywhere. And so it was with Pam. Whether it's India, Ireland, Copenhagen, Singapore or Market Drayton; she was recognised by everyone and everywhere as someone very fine. She not only survived in all these places but she thrived; enjoying friendships, wine, music, books and beauty wherever she was.



Like the flash of jewellery, the burnishing of silk, the beading on a glass or the heady scent of a flower, Pamela brought something exotic to her life, her home and her town. Who else do you know who grew avocados from stone, on top of a milk bottle, in the middle of Shropshire? The bright black of the plait down her back, the shine of her eyes, the gravel in her voice - she was dazzling. Which is why, of course, so many people, from so many different walks of life, found refuge, found comfort and found entertainment in her home. Her grammar may have carried the gold standard of English, but her manner was easy, familiar and comforting to people from far distant shores.

She produced three amazing children, golden-haired in their youth and irrepressible in their energy: Tom, Robert and Jude; all of whom have grown up to be principled, generous, kind and riotously funny. They are now parents themselves. Pamela's self lives on in those grandchildren.

Pamela shone out with kindness. Not the milky, passive kind of kindness that can all too easily fade away, but a bold kindness, a radical kindness, a genuine kindness; that made her not just an addition to her community, but essential to it. Her hand stitched banner decorates the church, her dining table hosted decades worth of people, her birthday and Christmas cards fill drawers all over the world, her company shored up the old, the weak and the ill, her drive to make other people comfortable, even at the cost of her own comfort, is unforgettable.

She burned brightly, she was the evening sun, she was the fire around which we all gathered, she was honey, she was grapefruit, she was whisky, she was warmth. She was golden. And so if, that night, she was mistaken for nectar, sought out like a flower, a blossom, a bloom; brushed against like pollen, I can well see why. Pamela was the very spirit of life, of brilliance, of beauty.

Finally, like gold she will not fade. She will not dull. She will never truly go. Would that we'd had longer with her but thank God we had her at all.

Regular Services

To join any of our Zoom services, click on the links below. Copies of service sheets are available from the Church Office.

Sunday 9.00am Communion Service in church

Sunday 10.30am ZOOM (Breaking Bread)

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Readings: Acts 9.10-19, 26-31; Luke 23.39-43

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am Communion Service in church

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2IUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

[pwd=R2IUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2IUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRLTW5Xdz09)

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 3164610

You can also join our Zoom services on your landline using any of the following numbers, with the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240
0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874

Open Air Service

We will be holding an open air service in the churchyard on **Sunday 11th July at 4.00pm**. Please bring a deck chair or a picnic rug and join us (and pray for sunshine!). ***If you can help with welcome/stewarding, please contact Catherine. Thank you.***



Dementia Training

Our pilot Zoom Dementia Training course begins on **Wednesday 14th of July, 2.00pm**. It consists of 4, weekly, 1 hour sessions on the 14th, 21st and 28th July and 4th August. Anyone interested should be able to attend all four dates. Places are still available, so please apply as soon as possible. Other sessions will be run again later in the Summer. Please email avrilinnocent@btinternet.com or speak to Val Creasey (07790 344850) or Avril Innocent (07794 260029).

Phoenix Group (for those bereaved)

The group will next meet on Friday 16th July for a trip to Oakgate Nursery and Garden Centre. Further details to follow.

Prayer

Please continue to pray for Guy Skipwith and all Pamela's family. Please pray for Nita Heath's son Antony and grandson Ben. Please pray for Muriel Rowley and Jill Hurst.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required

No Stock— UHT Milk; Biscuits ; Small Jars of Coffee; Rice Pudding; Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake; Long Life Cartons of Fruit Juice; Custard; Tinned Spaghetti

Low Stock— Jam ; Toilet Rolls ; Baby Wipes ; Deodorant

Other— Shampoo / Conditioner; Shower Gel; Washing-up Liquid; Cleaning Products; Laundry Tabs ; Wet Dog Food; Dry Cat Food

Preparations for Restarting the 10.30 Service in Church

We will wait until we understand what restrictions might remain in place after the 18th July, before making any final decisions about the 10.30am Service. It will then take a number of weeks, probably, to get teams back in place and restart this service back in church. However, there are a few preparations we can begin.

One key thing we are planning is to enable people to link in to the service in church via Zoom. To help with this we would like to get a few more volunteers onto our AV Team and we are also looking to recruit a few online 'hosts', who can welcome and assist our Zoom members and facilitate their breakout room after the service. If you could help with the AV Team and/or Zoom, please contact Ian Macfarlane (01630 638791).

Newsletter Deliveries

This is the last week of newsletter deliveries. Many thanks to those who have been delivering these over the past year. For those who were receiving their newsletters this way, there are now a number of opportunities to pick one up from church: Sunday mornings at the 9.00 service, Thursday mornings at the 10.00am service and during our opening times of 11am—1pm on a Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Staying in Touch

Our Church Office is not staffed at the moment, but e-mails and phone messages are being picked up regularly:

Phone: 01630 653505 **E-mail:** stmarysmd@btinternet.com

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar: Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Phone: 01630 656943

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.