



Celebrating the Life of

Dorothy Marguerite Isabel Cotgrave

'Peggy'

12th October 1927 – 27th February 2017

Parndon Wood Crematorium
Wednesday, 22nd March 2017 at 4.45 p.m.

Conducted by
Steve Stacey - Civil Celebrant

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Celebrating the Life of

Peggy

Entrance Music

How Great Thou Art – Elvis Presley

Welcome & Introduction

Welcome here today as we meet to celebrate the life of Peggy and to pay our respects to her.

We meet to share our memories of her, our stories about her, our love for her and our grief at losing her. We celebrate the role that she played in our lives.

To each one of you she was a dear friend. We celebrate that too.

Peggy was unique - there's never been anyone like her before, there never will be again. When she was born, they broke the mould.

She was a colourful character and had colourful language to match.

She was a kind and caring woman. She was generous to a fault too. She was generous with her time and if money, she had it, she would give it to you – in fact, she would ask if you needed any! She was selfless – nothing was too much for her.

She was smiley and warmhearted. She loved a good banter and had a good sense of humour. She always wanted you to have a good time and would happily dig you in the ribs to either get you smiling or to look at someone else with a miserable face! She had a great line in saucy limericks too.

She enjoyed being around others. She was very young at heart – she loved being around youngsters, particularly young men. Her approach wasn't always very subtle. She'd go up to them, give them a squeeze and say "You're very handsome, I'm looking for a boyfriend!"

She was hard working and liked to keep busy. She was stubborn. In her eyes there were two ways of doing things – Peggy's way and the wrong way. She was single minded too – once she'd made up her mind about something, there would be no budging her. And She had her inimitable way of saying things too – she wasn't afraid of holding back!

Her family meant the world to her. She would and do everything that she could for them. She was fiercely protective. She was never very strict, but always had “the Look” which would freeze you on the spot if you were doing wrong.

Our hearts go out to Carol, Bill, Maxine and Robert who have lost the cornerstone of their family. Peggy was so proud of her grandchildren Sarah, Richard, Ben, Sam, David, Libby, Jake and Josh. Her great grandchildren Nylah, Riley and Ronnie Mae, will grow up, I know, hearing wonderful stories about her.

Her family are the wonderful legacy that she leaves behind. They will always be a living memorial to her love.

We think too of Graeme, Anna, Dean and Steph they’ve lost a special part of their life too.

We take a moment to remember Maurice. She referred to him fondly as the “Dirty, Filthy Beast” – they remained friends until his death. We take a moment to remember her son Maurice – he was always in her heart.

Her Bingo buddies were always a big part of her life – Freda, Brian, Daisy, Muriel and Iris her best friend will miss having her in their lives. Sadly Dorothy another Bingo Buddy passed away recently.

Each one of you here today, has lost a special part of your life.

There is never a good time to die or a good way to die. We want the people that we love to be with us always, happy and healthy.

Peggy was 89 – she had a long life. Her passing is a reminder to us all that we’re all mortal and like all living things, only here for a brief moment. Even so, that moment is never long enough for those who really love us.

We’re going to spend a moment sharing some of the love and esteem that her family have for her.

A Poem by Olivia

Those Special Memories Of You

Those special memories of you
will always bring a smile
if only I could have you back

for just a little while

Then we could sit and talk again
just like we used to do
you always meant so very much
and always will do too

the fact that you're no longer here
will always cause me pain
but you're forever in my heart
until we meet again.

Although You're Gone

Read by Ben

Although you're gone, I'm not alone,
And never shall I be,
For the precious memories of the bond we shared
Will never depart from me.

Our love surpassed the ups and downs
And helped us along the way,
And that same love will give me strength
To manage this loss each day.

On my mind and in my heart,
Nan, you shall forever be,
For just as much as I am a part of you,
You are a part of me!



Our hymn today is one that she knew well. She would have sung it at school and at some of the happiest times as well as the saddest times of her life. As you sing, don't feel awkward – apparently, Peggy couldn't sing at all!

Hymn - All Things Bright & Beautiful

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.
(chorus)

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;
(chorus)

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one;
(chorus)

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.
(chorus)

Peggy's Story

Dorothy Marguerite Isabel, Peggy was born on the 12th October 1927 in Tilbury Grays. Peggy was a private person, who never talked much about her past.

Her father was a docker. She was one of 12 children. Peggy had a happy childhood and loved her mum and dad dearly.

She would have grown up knowing outside toilets and tin baths that would be shared by the whole family. No doubt Peggy and her siblings had their own tasks to do around the house.

Families made their own entertainment then and extended family lived nearby.

She would have been used to playing out for long hours. It was a safer and simpler time to be young.

She left school at 14 and we know little of what she did during the next ten years or so.

She was very glamorous – she used to tell everyone that. She loved anything that sparkled and shone. She liked her jewellery. Her hair was done beautifully, in the fifties it was dyed platinum blond and piled up like a beehive. She never went anywhere without her makeup and with her nails carefully painted with glittery nail varnish. She liked her pretty dresses and high heeled shoes.

Throughout her life she never looked her age and if people asked her how old she was, she would tempt fate by replying “how old do you think I look?”! Even in old age, she battled to keep looking young and was always buying anti wrinkle cream!

Peggy and Maurice met when they were both working as stewards on the Union Castle Line in the early 1950's. It was a job that she loved and enjoyed visiting Cape Town and South Africa.

The relationship had a rocky start. Maurice proposed to her and gave her an engagement ring while they were on a voyage. They fell out for some reason. Peggy threw the ring overboard – Maurice dived overboard and nearly died in the process. He did get the ring back. As Peggy saw it, she got the blame for everything!

They were married on the 30th June, 1956 in Tilbury. Pat Boone was at Number One in the charts with ‘I’ll Be Home’.

They started their married life with her parents.

They started their family with Maurice in 1957. Carol was born in 1960, Bill in 61, Maxine in 62 and Robert in 1966.

They moved to Harlow in the late 1950s. By then Maurice was working as a builder. They moved into a three bedroomed flat in Orchard Croft. It was the family home for the next 30 years. Later, Peggy lived in Parsonage Leys and finally in Toddbrook.

Peggy was a wonderful homemaker and tried the very best that she could, to give her children the childhood they deserved.

It was hard for her as her family grew. She never had a washing machine and would wash her clothes in the bath. She never had a wringer. Even heavy items like sheets and blankets were washed the same way.

Everything about life then was hard, but Peggy's character and personality always shone through. With five children, she worked incredibly hard.

As soon as her youngest was old enough, she worked as a vegetable cook at Spinney School, as a cleaner at Burnt Mill and at weekends she was an auxiliary nurse at St Margaret's

She tried hard with her cooking – she wasn't always successful and was no Mary Berry – cakes didn't have soggy bottoms, just burnt ones! She excelled at knitting though, and could knit for England. She made clothes for the children as well as blankets for the dogs.

Her marriage ended in in the mid 70's. Despite that, most of the time Maurice and her remained as friends

Peggy loved the opportunity to go out. She was fit for most of her life. She was healthy too – she used to smoke and went to the doctors one day. She tried giving up often, but when the doctor said that she would die if she didn't stop. She stopped there and then!

When the children were older she found a housekeeping job with Joe Jennings, the Bookmaker. She worked there until she retired and was a respected and much loved part of the household.

Holidays were few. She did enjoy when Carol got married. She joined Graeme and Carol on their honeymoon to Greece. Graeme was surrounded by women –

his mother joined them too. It was the first time that Peggy had been abroad since her Union Castle days.

Grandchildren started arriving in 1988. She loved being a nan. She was able to do everything that she wanted to do with her own children. She loved squeezing them and spoiling them. She loved her chocolates and sweets and would give them to her grandchildren, even if it meant sneaking sweets to them.

If she was caught giving them chocolate between meals, she would answer simply, “well I am their grandma!”

She never really slowed down until she got well into her 80’s. She still knitted and enjoyed watching TV Quiz shows and games shows. Michael Barrymore was always a favourite of hers. She was a keen X Factor fan as well.

She enjoyed her time at Toddbrook and had many happy times with Freda, Brian, Daisy, Dorothey, Muriel and Iris. Her friend Daisy saved her life when she discovered that Peggy had fallen and broken her hip.

Peggy was a happy, lively woman to the end – she was never downbeat. If she had a problem as she would say “it’s my fucking legs!”

She slipped away, gently and peacefully, in her sleep on the 27th February.

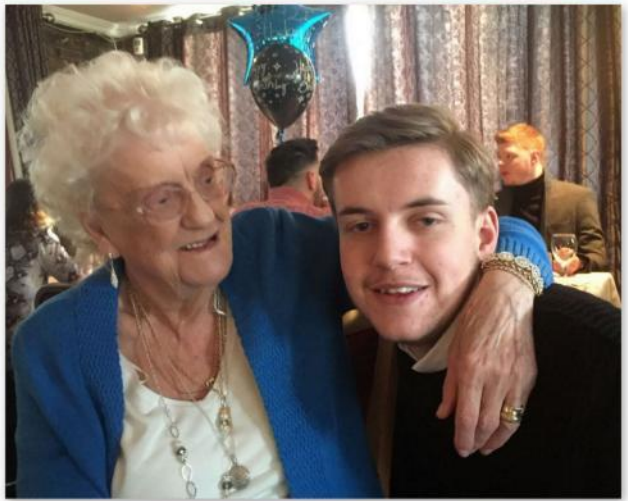
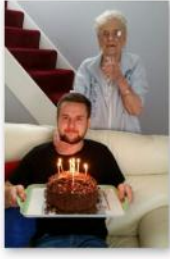
I hope that you can get comfort from the fact that she had a good life, a long life and a happy one. She leaves behind an amazing legacy of family and friends and some wonderful memories.

During the next few moments, think about the things that you’ve heard today. Think about your own memories of her - they will be every bit as special and unique as she was. They will be special, unique to you and her and no two of you will have exactly the same ones. Think about why it was good to have had Peggy as part of your life - the impact that she had on you. Remember that she was very proud to have had each of you in her life too.

While you do that, we’re going to listen to a song that was very much part of the soundtrack of Peggy’s family when they were young. She would sing it to them all.

Music for Reflection
I Love You Because – Jim Reeves





Quiet Reflection

We're going to spend a few moments in silence. Think about a favourite memory of Peggy. One that will make you smile. Perhaps you'll remember one of her cheeky cuddles, or a risque limerick.

If you have faith you might like to say your own private prayer for her.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen

The Committal

Sadly, Peggy has reached the end of her journey here with us.

She has left behind all of the cares of the world. She is now free of all the troubles of the world - she is free of illness and of pain. She is at total peace.

Peggy...

To everything there is a season

A time to be born and a time to die.

We are glad that we shared our lives with you.

We will cherish all of the good things that you brought into our lives.

We will remember your character and your personality,

Your love of fun and your love of life.

We will recall the things that you did with us

And the happy times we shared together.

We commit the memory of you

To our hearts and minds.

With love and tenderness we leave you in peace.

Closing Words

Each of you here will have your own thoughts about death. Some of you may feel that death is simply the end. Some of you may believe that we go on to a different existence or that we are reborn in some way. Some of you won't know what you believe.

Whatever your faith, though, it is in remembering that we live on in others. While you remember Peggy, she will live on.

Be thankful that Peggy was and still is a part of your life. Your lives have been made all the better by knowing Peggy and having shared some of your life with her. Remember, we never lose the people we love.

When we finish here today, you are all invited to the GPCA. When you get there enjoy sharing your stories of her, laugh at things that she said and things that she did. I'm sure that as you do there will be more laughter than tears. If she were there, no doubt she'd be laughing longest and loudest.

I want to share some words that reflect her matter of fact take on life and the fact that she was always busy.

One At Rest

Think of me as one at rest,
For me, you should not weep.
I have no pain, no troubled thoughts
For I am just asleep
The living, thinking me that was,
Is now forever still
And life goes on without me now,
As time forever will.

If your heart is heavy now
Because I've gone away,
Dwell not long upon it friend,
For none of us can stay.
Those of you who liked me,
I sincerely thank you all
And those of you who loved me,
I thank you most of all.

And in my fleeting lifespan,
As time went rushing by
I found some time to hesitate,

To laugh, to love, to cry.
Matters it now if time began
If time will ever cease?
I was here, I used it all,
And now I am at peace.

Our last song is from Wet Wet Wet. She loved the song. Perhaps it was the irresistible grin of Marty Pellow that did it for her. Probably as well she never met him!

Thank you for being here for Peggy and for each other.

Thank you to Peggy for simply being the great character she was.

Peggy often came out with some pearls of wisdom. We'll finish with one of those. "If anyone says anything you don't like and starts getting on your nerves just say arseholes to em!!!"

Exit Music

Love Is All Around – Wet Wet Wet