

In loving memory of
Richard Darlington

19.04.1933 – 4.07.2023



Funeral Service at
St Petroc's Church South Brent

Wednesday 19th July
12 noon

Richard's potted history

Born in Rugby to parents Dick Samuel and Nell Darlington, Richard was brought up Quaker with his elder brothers, Derek and Arthur. Their lives were influenced by the questioning spirit of their father and Nell, their mother who brought a steady, grounded, warm strength.

Richard's early love of singing continued throughout his life, his membership of St Petroc's choir the most recent expression. His love of painting led to architecture and continued throughout his life. The most recent painting to have made it into postcard format was of South Brent Village store.

He met Elizabeth Bruce at Friend's Yearly Meeting in 1959. They recognised a fellow spirit; someone concerned for the natural world and for social justice. They were pioneers in recycling, solar power, hydroelectricity (founder members of C.A.T.) fair trade and ethical investment.

Richard was a kind father to their children, Susannah and Martin and eventually his grandchildren, one on each side, helping them grow up with a sense of responsibility, an awareness of perspective and an appreciation of the great outdoors through walking, cycling and camping and canoeing.

He and Elizabeth migrated to the Church of England in the 1980's where Michael Mayne played an important role in Richard's inner life.

Richard's work was driven by an evolving interest and skill in public participation and grass roots democracy which flowered in his work in Improvement Areas for Cambridge City Council in the late 70s and 80s.

At retirement he turned his attention to supporting Elizabeth in her career as a senior social worker and, together with Selwyn Image, bringing Emmaus (communities for homeless people) to this country. They moved to Oldham, and through Richard's enthusiasm, vision, "cheekiness" (in his own words)

and determination, together with that of many others, Emmaus Mossley was born. This thriving community was his pride and joy.

Here they became strong members of the local church St Anne's of Lydgate.

Elizabeth died in 2014, and Richard remained active in his community until, because of his ill health, in 2021 he moved down to South Devon to live as neighbours of Susannah and Ya'Acov, his daughter and son-in-law.

This 2 plus years together has been a precious time of getting to know each other more deeply, learning and sharing together. Not always easy, but ultimately so precious.

Richard's capacity for self-reflection and his appetite for ongoing learning, his kindness and gentle humour will go on touching us all, along with the conscious and kind manner of his death.

St Petroc's church community took him in and he felt instantly at home here with you, and that it felt like a sister community to St Anne's in Lydgate, Mossley, up north. Our family will always be grateful for the warm welcome you gave him here.

Richard died peacefully in the early hours of 4th July with Thea holding his hand, under a huge full moon, under a huge full moon and with a chorus of shriek owls accompanying his way. As anyone who knew his paintings or saw his garden will know, birds were very important to him and they were there as he let go.

Fly free Richard! We love you!

Deep gratitude and appreciation to the team of people who supported Richard (and us) with his last years, months and weeks here: Thea Henderson, Donna Gully, Lily Henderson, Elizabeth Gall all at South Brent Health Centre, St Lukes Hospice, the District Nurses and Marie Curie.

THANK YOU!

**Please enter the church and sit in silence in quiet
accompaniment of the family.**

12 noon:
Welcome by Rev Gina

Bible reading

Matthew 25 v34-40

*“...when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give
you something to drink?*

*When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing
clothes and clothe you?*

*When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?
He replied “I tell you the truth whatever you did for one of the
least of these brothers of mine you did it for me”*

Tributes 1

Martin Darlington (son)
Simon Macintosh (colleague)
Ali Hill (colleague)

Hymn:

For the healing of the nations
chosen by Richard and Elizabeth

For the healing of the nations
Lord we pray with one accord
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word

Lead us father into freedom
from despair your worlds release
that redeemed from war and hatred
all may come and go in peace
show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase

All that kills abundant living
let it from the earth be banned
pride of status, race or schooling
dogmas that obscured your plan
in our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span

Tributes 2:

Reuben Darling Khan (grandson)
Ya'Acov Darling Khan (son-in-law)
Susannah Darling Khan (daughter)

Address from Rev Gina

Prayers

Music for reflection

Corpus Christi Carol by Benjamin Britten
played by Matthew Barley

Commendation

Blessing

Music on exit:

one of Richard's favourite Bach pieces.

Some words about Richard:

“Richard's quiet, cheerful, humorous, yet visionary attitude to life has made a very special impression on us - honest, humorous and yet profound.

We are very blessed to have known him, and thank God for his creative, down-to-earth, practical, Christian faith.”

Rupert and Gesine Hoare

“I am really sorry that I am unable to be with you all today to pay my last respects to Richard. My friendship with him goes back many years to when plans were being made to open an Emmaus Community in Mossley. Richard had a quiet sense of humour. Knowing that I had big feet (size 14) he arranged for a pair of real Lancashire wooden clogs to be made for me and had them shipped up the canal for a ceremonial fitting at the community. Richard was one of the early pioneers of Emmaus in the UK and will be long remembered for his dedication to those less fortunate than himself. Thank you Richard for all that you have given. Many have cause to be grateful to you for your life of service to others.”

*Sir Terry Waite KCMG CBE
President Emmaus UK.*

"Richard, Thank you for all the selfless support you have given Emmaus and me personally over the years. I have always wished I had your modesty and self effacement but you have taught by example and I for one am very aware of your contribution to our common cause. Go well, old friend.”

Selwyn Image

“It has been a joy to know Richard, he has taught me about how to grow old with grace and dignity. He lived a full life, in which he was not a passenger, but a driver”.

Dr Morris, his first GP in South Brent.

Ali Hill added: “And what a driver!”

“Richard taught Claudio the concept of perspective in his drawing and Claudio's art skills grow apace. Richard has done many special things in his life, and he has touched my family and my son as part of that. I will be forever grateful.”

Thomas Fryer (nephew).

“Richard has done so much for his family and his wider community, shown in his actions, support and love.”

Kerry Robins (niece)

“Richard and Elizabeth have been such formative people in my life I hope you feel proud of your gentle influence in so many subtle ways. Thank you for that, and everything else.”

Priscilla (God Daughter)

“Richard was a wonderful inspiration. He gave his life's work with so little ego. It is a rare gift to give with so much integrity and generosity and insight of what was the world was asking of him. Love for the expansion into the mystery”.

Catherine Wright

"Blessings for a being who had such enthusiasm for life, and a bright and gentle focus when learning something new. Richard, your love and joy of your family was deeply evident in all of our conversations. Celebrating a life devoted to humbly uplifting others”.

Jilan (yoga breathing teacher)

“I have memories of both Richard and Elizabeth and the impact they had on me. By meeting him and his introduction of Emmaus, he changed the course of my life for the better, for this I will be eternally grateful. I am and will continue to give the best of myself to this community and to spread the word far and wide to continue his good work. I am sure that perpetual light will shine on him because the light he has left with us is very bright.”

Hazel Hodgkinson (Manager of retail- Emmaus Mossley)

“Richard's trust in me means so much. He built up such a precious and beautiful Emmaus in Mossley and I always desired to run it as I felt he intended it to be. Richard is a very special person who has impacted so many people and so many lives in such a wonderful way. No contribution means more to Emmaus Mossley than Richard's.”

Ali Hill (Manager of Emmaus Mossley)

We have lost a dear and longstanding friend: a lovely man, always willing to try something new. The way he applied his talents for the benefit of others throughout his life is an example to us all.

John and Margaret Newton (old friends)



Richard Darlington was the original inspiration for Mossley Heritage Centre. His commitment, intelligence, enthusiasm and creativity were obvious to all of us who knew him. His dedication to ensuring that Mossley's heritage was celebrated and passed on through generations has seen thousands of visitors visit the centre. We will remember Richard with huge affection and respect.

Mossley Civic Society

To access Richard's short film distilling his life, see:
<https://www.schoolofmovementmedicine.com/my-road-to-emmaus/>

Richard asked that if you wish to contribute to a charity, please support Emmaus Mossley:
<https://emmaus.org.uk/mossley/> and learn more about the whole Emmaus movement or/and donate to our incredible local hospice: <https://www.stlukes-hospice.org.uk>

Thank you all,
Susannah and Ya'Acov Darling Khan,
Martin and Sharon Darlington.