

The tribute to David Frith by the Rev Keith Sandow at the memorial service in the Uniting Church, Whaley Bridge, on 19 November 2015

David was born on 14 April 1952 and passed away on 11 November 11, 2015. He was 63. David is survived by his sister and two brothers Dorothy, Donald and Norman, and his loving wife Ann and his wonderful boys Ben and Thomas. He is mourned by his extended family and many friends.

David was born and raised in Hollingworth. His parents were Ivy and George Frith. David was the youngest of the four. He attended primary school in Hollingworth and later the grammar school in Hyde.

One of his relatives, Rachael, used to call David Pud because he always had a second helping of puddings.

All of us will remember his passion for walking; Ben and Thomas shared that love of the outdoors. Many in this room who joined David on walks or read his books or heard talks on various walks around the Manchester and the local area will share tales of the trails for years to come

Adventure and traveller

David once hiked to the base camp at Mount Everest, climbed the glaciers in Iceland, rambled the Pennine Way and of course strolled the many local trails with the footpath society, the Sunday Strollers, and many other groups.

He travelled to India, Israel, Canada and Yugoslavia, when the boys were young and also visited France and Spain. Ann said that there was nothing he liked better than to plan trips. He would take two or three weeks to put them together, then they would be off.

More locally, people will appreciate the time he took to 'recce' a trip before taking any group out for an adventure.

Ann and David

Ann and David met at church back in Hollingworth. She attended the Primitive Methodist Church and David attended the New Connection. The names may be a little confusing, but when we speak of methodism it was often 'Which Methodist tradition are you referring to?' There were many.

John Gray was a minister at the time and had great influence with David and Ann's generation. David took on a leadership role at the youth club and Ann also took part. They married on June 10, 1979 and the rest is history. Ann said that she will never forget being proposed to on Hallowe'en and then formally getting engaged on bonfire night. They went on the Llangollen canal for their honeymoon and returned there for the 25th wedding anniversary.

Church life

David always took an active role in church life, working with the youth group in Hollingworth - digging out the cellar at the church to make room for activities that are still being held there.

And, of course, there was his involvement in Marple, and later here in the village at the Uniting Church. He will be remembered for assisting with pantomimes and carol services. He seemed to always play Moses, Peter or Jesus, and even a shepherd last year, but never sang or danced.

He loved reading lessons, a Bible story, taking part in the special liturgies, which I will be ever grateful for last year during Lent. He was always there helping to set up and take down during the church bazaars, helping with the finances, gift aid and paper work, and compiling and wiring the church magazine.

And, of course, leading the Sunday strolls that people loved.

David's interests and work

David was fascinated with trains, canal boats and aeroplanes. His love of outdoors and preservation became not just his joy, but his vocation.

He first worked on the canals in Marple, then moving to Whaley Bridge to take a role at Toddbrook reservoir in 1989. In 1999 he worked with EWS and finally with Freight-liners' where good friend Ray got to know him. The family were so moved by a letter they received from Ray.

David's philosophy was to enjoy working for a living, but don't live to work.

Accomplishments

David enjoyed writing, authoring three books. Pathwise an 100 mile walk around Manchester, which included 12 walks, were two that many people remember.

He took a course in geology through the Open University that earned him a degree. Something he was so proud of was helping start the Glossop and Longdendale Preservation Society, which is still going 40 years later. He also helped save the CPA pond on Reservoir Road. This summer he received a Community Award from Whaley Bridge Town Council in recognition of his dedication and voluntary contributions.

He was also proud to be a church steward, and trustee, helping to organise the Gift Aid and collections and keeping those important records for the church. More recently he organised a sponsored walk in aid of Burkina Faso, the poor African country which Churches Together and the local community have so enthusiastically supported.

Other joys

David loved photography. His family said 'We don't have many photos of David, because he was the one who was always taking them.' I was delighted to send them one that I took during the sponsored walk. And I know others have been sending ones that they have taken at various occasions. These I am sure will be treasured.

He loved talking about local history and everyone enjoyed just pausing for a few moments along a trip to hear a snippet of local history before setting off again. His natural way was to stroll along beside you for a few moments to catch up and listen to your stories. He was a natural at this.

David's personality

Today we celebrate his great sense of humour including the puns that made people laugh so much. He was a people person, full of knowledge. His sons said they could ask their father anything and he would always have an answer.

Ann and the boys would like to thank Jean and John, Vic and David and Angela, Michael for their assistance and visits; and graham for taking on the Sunday Strollers; and for everyone who has been so kind during these difficult days.

Donations can be made to **Glossop Mountain Rescue** that David belonged to and supported. And also to **Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research**.