

In loving memory of

*Martin Rickards*



19th December 1942 - 12th January 2023

Service conducted by Maria Sparks

Medway Crematorium | Thursday 16th February, 2023 at 2:30pm

*RECEPTION OF COFFIN*

*WELCOME & INTRODUCTION*

*Abide With Me*

Henry Francis Lyte

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide:  
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide:  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour,  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies,  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee,  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*EULOGY*

By Maria Sparks

***'My Grandad' poem***

From Martin's granddaughter, Katie

You've always had a special place, deep within my heart.  
Forever there it will remain, whether we are near or far apart.

You've always been a favourite to everyone you know.

You've always made me happy, with your wonderful glow.  
The loving and funny memories you gave me will never be replaced.  
Nothing else can ever compare to when I see a smile upon your face.  
I want you to know I love you, and you mean the world to me.  
You're the star I'll always wish upon, the light I'll always see.

***Amazing Grace***

John Newton

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see.  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.  
Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come.  
This grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.  
When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright, shining as the sun.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.  
Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see.

***BLESSINGS & FAREWELL WORDS***



## Appreciation

The family would like to thank you all for your kind support and comfort during this time.

Please join the family for a celebration of Martin's life, along with refreshments at:

*The Hoo Village Institute*  
*25 Main road*  
*Hoo, Rochester*  
*ME3 9AA*

## Donations

If you wish to make a donation to our chosen charity (Dementia UK), please visit [www.Martin-rickards.muchloved.com](http://www.Martin-rickards.muchloved.com) where you will be able to donate directly to Dementia Uk, view photographs, share memories of Martin and more.