

We cannot know what lies beyond our final breath, but let us trust that it is beautiful and welcoming. Whatever your own beliefs, please let that thought touch your faith and bring you comfort. Viv would be very happy with that.

At just 59, Viv will have meant different things, at different times, to different people, you will all have your own special memories of her and know in your own hearts what she meant to you..... As a mum, as a sister, as a grandma, as a life partner and as a friend.

Right now your hearts may be weighed with sadness.... but also filled with gratitude and the warmest of thoughts as you hold Viv gently in your hearts, as we come together, to give thanks to a life that touched and enriched your own.

Music

*"The Prayer" sung by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman
Before we listen to this beautiful piece of music, I would like to just read some of the lyrics that, if you wish, maybe taken into your hearts as a form of non religious prayer.*

The Prayer

*I pray you'll be our eyes
And watch us where we go
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know*

*Let this be our prayer
When we lose our way
Lead us to a place
Guide us with your grace
To a place where we will be safe*

When shadows fill our day
Lead us to a place
Guide us with your grace
Give us faith so we'll be safe

We hope each sole will find
Another sole to love
Let this be our prayer
Just like every child
Need to find a place
Guide us with your grace

Play Song

TRIBUTE

I'd like to start our tribute to Viv with a short quote from the writer and the psychologist Aarti Khurana.

A strong woman is the life line of her family. She carries with her the power to endure pain and the courage to sacrifice. She has the power to create and nurture life. She is indeed the epitome of love and sacrifice. Vivien Herbert was that strong woman, for her family and loved ones, and also for herself.

Not all stories have to start with the beginning, and today Viv starts around 14 years ago with an eagerly anticipated knock at her door at Elford Rise, when she would meet face to face for the 1st time with Colin Killett.

The two had been talking almost non stop online for a while, and Viv had eventually trusted her instincts well enough to invite Colin to her own home.

Its fair to say they had clicked and Colin recalls his 1st impression of Viv, was even more than he expected. They fell into an easy routine with each other of long walks, pub lunches, and plenty of chat. In those early days, it was very relaxed and comfortable.

They didnt rush things.

Colin had his own flat, and it would be another 4 years before he let that go, knowing that his commitment to Viv was 100 percent.

Viv had her own grown up family a daughter Melissa, and 2 sons Dwaine and Stavros, and an eventual 9 grandchildren. She had raised her kids through some tough times, and done her best to give them the confidence to spread there wings and make there own way in life. She was of course still always there for them, she remained close, and her love and support for them was unfaltering. She had loved to see her grandchildren when ever they gathered at the usual family occasion.

As 1 of 5 siblings, Viv it was her sister Pauline and Angela who had all kept up with each other.

Fate had determined that Vivs new start with Colin would be challenged almost immediately. It was just 18 months into the relationship when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The lump had been around for a while but she didnt like to make a fuss, and ignored it, until Colin put his foot down and insisted that she got it looked at.

In 2011, the news was just as bad as she anticipated. The lumpectomy unfortunately didn't deal with it, and so she underwent more surgery with a mastectomy.

At the time Viv was working at Adkins Bakery, but eventually had to leave her job as her health deteriorated and the cancer began to take its toll.

When she was diagnosed with Secondary cancer, and had finished with her work, Viv and Colin bought a little ray of fluffy sunshine into their lives in the shape of a tiny white puppy they named Ben. He became a constant companion to Viv, her everything, and it is only right that Ben should be here today with us, as he too has lost someone very special, and is grieving her loss.

Throughout some challenging times, Viv and Colin and little Ben took to the roads, they must have travelled the highways and byways for miles to enjoy some of the most beautiful spots in the UK. Colin recounts that they were away a lot, there was Paignton, Torquay, Margate, Ingoldmells, Scarborough, Whitby and a special favourite.... Tenby where the flat, clean sandy beaches go on for miles and they could just walk, walk, walk and walk some more, stopping only for a bit of lunch once breakfast had worn off. Colin would drive setting off about 2am and they would be at their favourite seaside cafe for a full English fry up before the doors had even opened at 7.30am. She would really love those ride outs.

Despite her poor health, Viv still had a good appetite, reserved for proper grub. She enjoyed a steak, and some chops, a Sunday good roast with all the traditional trimmings, or a healthy stew... and of course a full English fry up. No point trying to entice her to try anything foreign she just wasn't interested.

House proud and always happy with a duster in her hand, Viv had kept her home spotless. If anyone offered to help her, they had to be ready to take direct instructions as to what and how things had to be done. She had very high standards.

Even the massive aquarium which occupied the living room for the last 5 years was always sparkling clean. They had evolved in ambition from a fairly normal fish tank in the kitchen, and was pride of place. It was full of very fancy fish, all different, and some she liked more than others. The tiny blue neon were her favourites and Colin's massive loach was the one she really disliked. She had a lot of respect for the snails who were the cleaning crew. It certainly took a lot of looking after but it brought Viv a lot of joy.

Her garden was another joy, and quite magical, with her huge range of ornaments and fabulous lighting effects over the decking area. It was a place of peace and tranquility and as the prayer song says a place where we can be safe. Viv had enjoyed working on it perhaps even more than she enjoyed sitting in it.

The tv soaps were another simple pleasure, much to Colin's despair, she watched them all. Otherwise it would have been old tv westerns, proper shoot 'em ups with cowboys and Indians.

Although Viv had lived with her failing health for a long time, she had been uncomplaining and stoic, choosing to just get on with her life, taking each day as it comes, as best she could. There were ups and downs of course, and so when she mentioned to Colin that she had pains in her chest, it was just another 1 of many on-going discomforts to be endured. When her time came, Viv died very unexpectedly, and quite suddenly, in her own home, having suffered heart failure.

Amanda Knox concludes

Viv Herbert your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are missed beyond words and loved forever.

Reflection

My Heart Will Go On" sung by Celine Dion

We have just heard some warm memories of Viv, so let's so let's now listen to another favourite track by Celine Dion . .

Followed by

~ A BRIEF SILENCE IS HELD BEFORE COMMITTAL~
for private thoughts and personal prayer.

COMMITAL

Accompanied by The Lords Prayer Instrumental Music
Played at low volume during . . . to fade.

All Pleas Stand

Vivien Herbert; Your life we honour, your departure we must accept, your memory we cherish.

We meet here, in grief at your death, but in gratitude for your life, and for

the privilege of sharing it with you

Now it is time to let you go; to find your eternal rest, as we commit your earthly body to its natural end, returned to the elements.

Earth to earth; ashes to ashes; dust to dust

Let the memory of you, sustain those who grieve for you, and help them to emerge from that grief with a lightness of spirit, knowing that they have

loved you, and that you loved them.

May those who remain; listen for the eternal echo of that love, and feel it within their hearts forever.

Now I invite you to please join me, as we can say together The Lords 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,
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

ALL PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING WORDS~

As we come towards the end of our Service today, let us end on a poem
which seems to reflect Viv's pragmatic and selfless approach to life

DON'T BE TOO SAD

I've lived my life, I've tried my best
The memories I hold dear
Are experiences I have known
Of happiness and tears.
The love of my family
The care of my friends
The good times I've shared
Right to the end.
I've travelled life's highways and byways
Seen children grow up
Experienced life's living
And drunk from love's cup.
I leave you with memories
With thoughts of you all
I'm no longer with you
But your hearts will recall
The good times we shared
The laughter we had
Please cherish these memories
And don't be too sad.

So; we have now reached the close of our Service, and it just remains for me to thank you all once again, for being here today to share this precious time in gratitude and remembrance for the life of Viv.

Let me now offer this this one last thought to keep.

There are special people in our lives that will never leave us even after they are gone.

We talk about them, not because we are stuck or that we haven't moved on; we talk about them because we are theirs and they are ours, and no passage of time can change that. They live on, in our hearts, forever.

Please do remain seated for a few more minutes, until your Funeral Director escorts you out to the flower terrace.

~EXIT MUSIC~

"Step Aside" sung by Beres Hammond