

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF



John Michael Francis
Baxter

13TH APRIL 1951 - 29TH MAY 2024

Service held at Garden of England Crematorium, Bobbing, ME9 8GZ
Thursday, 27th of June at 12pm

Service conducted by Mark Perrian

RECEPTION OF COFFIN

Entrance music

Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The Dash

Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at a funeral for a friend
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own -the cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more,
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
remembering this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent YOUR dash?

EULOGY

By Celebrant

TRIBUTE

By Martin Abbotson

Reflection music

Pain, Loss and Love by Rupert Gregson-Williams

Parting

Charlotte Brontë

THERE'S no use in weeping,
Though we are condemned to part:
There's such a thing as keeping
A remembrance in one's heart:

There's such a thing as dwelling
On the thought ourselves have nurs'd,
And with scorn and courage telling
The world to do its worst.

We'll not let its follies grieve us,
We'll just take them as they come;
And then every day will leave us
A merry laugh for home.

When we've left each friend and brother,
When we're parted wide and far,
We will think of one another,
As even better than we are.

Every glorious sight above us,
Every pleasant sight beneath,
We'll connect with those that love us,
Whom we truly love till death !

In the evening, when we're sitting
By the fire perchance alone,
Then shall heart with warm heart meeting,
Give responsive tone for tone.

We can burst the bonds which chain us,
Which cold human hands have wrought,
And where none shall dare restrain us
We can meet again, in thought.

So there's no use in weeping,
Bear a cheerful spirit still;
Never doubt that Fate is keeping
Future good for present ill!

FAREWELL WORDS

The Lord's Prayer
COMMITTAL

THANK YOU & DISMISSAL

Please take a moment to enjoy John's favourite song as we exit
Lovin' You by Minnie Riperton

*The family would like to thank you all for your kind
support during this time of sadness.*

*Refreshments will be served after the service at Tudor Rose Pub,
Chestnut Street, Sittingbourne, ME9 8BT.*

DONATIONS

*John's wishes were for donations to be made to Cathedral Day Unit,
Canterbury Hospital, in recognition of all the kindness and care they
gave him during his chemotherapy treatment.*

