

The Celebration of Life Service for

ANDREW RICHARD PEEK



November 7, 1989 - May 1, 2015

Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead

Friday, May 29, 2015

11 am

ENTRY MUSIC *You Are Not Alone, Michael Jackson*

POEM *Not How Did He Die, But How Did He Live?*

*Not, how did he die, but how did he live?
Not, what did he gain, but what did he give?
These are the units to measure the worth
Of a man as a man, regardless of his birth.
Nor what was his church, not what was his creed?
But had he befriended those really in need?
Was he ever ready, with words of good cheer,
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?
Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say?
But how many were sorry when he passed away?*

WELCOME *Colin Irwin*

Good morning everyone. My name is Cohn Irwin and it's my very great privilege to welcome you today as we gather to pay our respects, honour and celebrate the short but richly fulfilling life of an exceptional young man, Andrew Richard Peek.

There is no escaping the fact that this is a funeral service and that makes it, by definition, a deeply sad and emotional occasion and it goes without saying that Andrew will be missed desperately by his nearest and dearest, notably of course, his devoted parents, Susan and Nick and his beloved sister Yvonne, grandfather Ralph and his uncle Philip, as well as his many friends and his wider family in the bowling community.

I know you will be feeling a horrible sense of shock, disbelief even, as to how or why such a fit, popular and successful young man could pass so suddenly without warning or apparent reason. It makes no sense. And it's perfectly understandable, natural and indeed healthy to grieve, to mourn and to shed tears for Andrew. All emotions are welcome here today.

I wish I had the words to ease the pain. Sadly I don't but I believe we can draw comfort from Andrew himself. It is Andrew, his character, his powerful spirit and his love that will comfort, sustain and inspire us in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

Nick, Susan and Yvonne are very keen that we should treat this occasion not in morbid regret or bitter resentment, but as an opportunity. An opportunity to thank Andrew and to celebrate that life. And as we look back over that life, we will find plenty to celebrate.

His great work ethic which took him a long way in a short time. His strength of character. His warmth and generosity. His endearing personality. His infectious smile. His fierce self belief. His love of adventure and travel. His commitment to the scouting movement. His charitable beliefs. His flair for design. His support for Help The Heroes. His love of cars. His passion for Chelsea. His great talent in bowling. His love of family and his help and support to Yvonne.

Ultimately he was someone with an immense love of life itself. And he enriched those who shared it with him. He had plenty to give and he gave it willingly.

These are the exceptional characteristics that defined Andrew, leaving us with a treasure chest of beautiful memories.

And it's important to remember that it's not those memories we are cremating today. We are not cremating his personality. His influence. Or his spirit. Or that great smile.

These things stay with us. They live on. And they will always live on. And while they live on, Andrew remains part of you all.

That is his legacy. And as legacies go, it's a pretty momentous one. And that legacy definitely well worth celebrating today.

PRAYER *The Lord's Prayer*

EULOGY *Conn Irwin*

Abraham Lincoln said “In the end it’s not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in your years.” And Andrew put plenty of life into his years.

At whatever he did, whatever he tried, Andrew was always very confident. He had great self-belief that however difficult the challenge, he’d make a success of it. And mostly he was right.

Even when he was small he was never hampered by self-doubt. He was learning to ride a bike with stabilisers at the age of five when one of the stabilisers fell off. Most children would at that point scream and panic and insist mum or dad should fix the problem or avoid bicycles for years.

Not Andrew. He calmly assessed the situation and took the other stabiliser off, got back on the bike and rode it without stabilisers. That sums him up. There was never a doubt in his mind that he could ride that bike without stabilisers and he carried that sort of self-belief through the rest of his life.

It took him a long way, too, from his birth at St Helier Hospital on November 7, 1989 through school at St Dunstan’s, then Overton Grange and on to Portsmouth University, where he studied Business Enterprise Development.

During his studies, he did a years work placement at Panasonic in Bracknell before starting a full time job at Fidelity in May, 2012 - initially as an Associate but finishing as a Pension Specialist and problem solver.

He thrived there and did so well that he was invited to further his career as a Pension Specialist Consultant to the investment company J.P. Morgan in Blackfriars. It’s said that as soon as Andrew walked into the interview and smiled, he’d got the job.

He was ambitious with a long time ambition to work on the trading floor and, judged by how well he progressed in his five weeks at the company, there is little doubt that he would have achieved it too in double quick time.

He was born into a family of 10-pin bowlers. Nick and Susan actually met at Tolworth Bowl and Andrew showed his talent very early. He was very successful with the juniors and went on to represent Surrey at U-14, U-16 and U-18 level as well as qualifying to attend the BTBA Academy. He became a familiar, highly regarded and instantly identifiable figure. Anyone who wanted to find Andrew just had to go to the Bowl and look out for the tall left-handed figure with the high back swing.

He travelled all over the country – and indeed abroad – bowling. At uni in Portsmouth he became part of a very successful University team and was awarded colours for his efforts as a player and secretary. Through his bowling at University tournaments in the UK, he was selected for the squad to play in the American Open National Tournament in Reno in 2011 and ended up designing the union jack shirts in which they played.

In fact he had quite an eye for design, coming up with the Sutton District logo for the 2016 Cub Scouts centenary. Andrew was a keen Scout and won the Chief Scouts Gold Award as a Scout. In later years, he could not totally commit to Scouting because he was so busy with bowling - but he was always there when help and muscle was required.

He hadn't bowled seriously for about a year because he didn't have the time to practise but he had a great natural instinct for the subtleties of the sport and lane conditions. He knew when to speed up and when to slow down, when to change balls, etc, and he was very happy to impart his experience to others and was always very generous, supporting, encouraging and inspiring younger bowlers.

Whether it was young bowlers, Scouts or friends in need, he'd always be there for them, without question helping them in any way he could. He had taken to doing gym work to improve his fitness. When a friend / personal trainer started his own gym, Andrew was there helping set the Gym up and designing another logo.

He was extremely competitive but extremely supportive in a team environment. He didn't suffer fools gladly and could be a little bit fiery but he usually had a big smile on his face and enjoyed life to the max. And whenever he appeared, people were always pleased to see Pecky.

He liked to socialise, enjoyed a good party, drank cider and the occasional whisky, read Harry Potter and the Twilight series books several times over and loved to travel.

He loved cars, his pride and joy was his Mercedes. He loved to watch Formula 1 and was full of plans to go off to watch the Monaco Grand Prix. He wasn't one to do anything by halves.

He became a Chelsea fan while at Overton Grange, becoming a regular at Stamford Bridge and went off to Amsterdam in his Mercedes to see them in Europe.

For Easter 1998, Susan's Mum and Dad arranged to take Andrew and Yvonne on a surprise trip to Disney World in Florida. They were taken to Gatwick on the pretext they were going to wave off their grandparents who were flying to the States whilst the family went on to Bicester to get him some new trainers.

When the whole family were at Virgin's Check In, Nana and Granddad revealed all - "would you like to join us in a trip to Florida. Yvonne's reaction was to say "when?"

Andrew reacted slightly differently. "You're joking me," he said. "What about my new trainers? I thought we were going to Bicester to get my new trainers!" He ended up with 3 pairs from the USA.

Travelling obviously got into Andrew's blood - he was a prime mover in organising the bowling trip to Las Vegas / Reno and two years later he thoroughly enjoyed a 2 week spring break with 15 friends in Cancun.

On the morning of Friday 1st May, after going out for a meal the previous evening, he didn't wake up - and we still don't really know why. But what we do know is that Andrew left a large, positive impact on a lot of people during his time with us. He will not be forgotten and we give great thanks for his life.

HYMN

Shine Jesus Shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!***

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood! may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

REFLECTION

For Good, from Wicked

READING *Peter 1, verses 4-6*

*And God has reserved for his children the priceless gift of eternal life
It is kept in heaven for you, pure and un-deified
Beyond the reach of change and decay
And God, in his mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it
Because you are trusting Him.
It will be yours in that coming last day for all to see
So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead
Even though the going is rough for a while down here*

CLOSING WORDS

REQUIEM FOR ANDREW PEEK

The sun starts to fade as Andrew departs
Gone but still living so bright in our hearts
A shining example, who inspired and still does
Memories so warm and thoughts filled with love
For while bodies get sick, spirits live on
To sustain us still even now that you're gone
A loving son, grandson, brother too
We couldn't imagine a world without you
But time it must pass, as it always will
We offer our thanks and remember you still

So farewell dearest Andrew, or should we say au revoir
You're gone from this earth but you're not very far
Your presence surrounds us, it's right here in this place
We can still hear your voice, we can still see your face
Looking at us as we think fondly of you
If problems arise you'll help guide us through
You were there for us in life and strange though to say
We sense you within us at the dawn of each day
Your spirit still binds us, it's a bond that won't cease
So thank you dear Andrew, sleep well and rest in peace

EXIT MUSIC Wherever You Are, Military Wives