

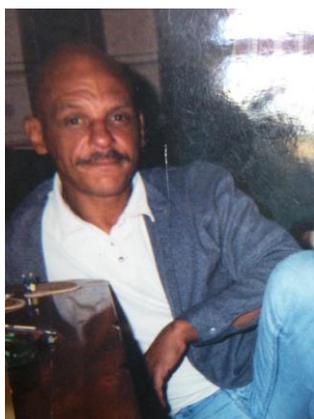
## Gifts in Wills

Remember St Mary's Hospice in your will, and your kind gift will never be forgotten ...

Your legacy will make a lasting difference to St Mary's Hospice; helping us to build a stronger future to ensure that we continue to provide care, comfort and support for all those who need the support of our services, so that they are not on their own at a difficult time. Your generosity will not be forgotten by many families.

Your gift would help patients like Brian. Brian's family have kindly shared their story and you can see from their initial 'fear' of coming to a hospice, how St Mary's supported Brian and his family when they needed it most. This enabled a difficult time to have cherished and many happy memories, and importantly eased Brian's discomfort and provided support – all of which St Mary's was privileged to be a part of and something that will never be forgotten. To find out more about how your gift can make a difference please read Brian's story.

### Brian's story ...



Brian was just 62 years old when he passed away on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Brian was a kind and funny man with a keen interest in art and music – a brilliant self-taught player of the guitar. Brian was close to his sisters: Beverly, Lorraine, Maureen and Tia and grew up in Liverpool, where he went on to become a merchant seaman.

Brian met his wife Kay when his ship docked in Barrow in Furness and became stepdad to Kay's children Paul and Steven, followed by the birth of their two children Kelly and Brian. It was Barrow in Furness that then became Brian's home for the rest of his life.

In 2014, Brian became ill and following tests he was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Brian bravely battled cancer – even being given the all clear at one point - but sadly the cancer returned. Brian and his family were told that nothing more could be done to help Brian but to make him as comfortable as possible. It was at this point that St Mary's Hospice was introduced to Brian and his family. Brian's sister Tia recalls how she felt when the hospice was suggested: "The mention of a hospice ultimately brought fear to us all. It just felt like this was the end of the road and a hospice was somewhere people just went to pass away."

Sadly the day before Brian moved in to the hospice his beloved mum had passed away back in Liverpool. This was an extremely distressing time for the whole family but the staff at St Mary's were fantastic and provided comfort during this difficult time for Brian and his sisters. With his family travelling from Liverpool to move Brian to the hospice situated in Ulverston, the staff went the extra mile ensuring that Tia and Beverly had somewhere to stay. St Mary's showed outstanding hospitality and brought a light relief with their friendly manner and comforting words.



Brian absolutely loved the staff at St Mary's and really enjoyed their company. One of the family's favourite memories of Brian's time in the hospice was one morning when Brian was getting ready a bath and two members of staff took him on each arm. Brian was always determined to carry on walking no matter how weak he was. He found being joined on each arm by these two lovely ladies brilliant and begun singing "I'm getting married in the morning! Ding Dong the bells are gonna chime," as usual Brian was lifting the spirits of everybody around him and hopped in to a massive bubble bath delighted with himself!



Tia remembers fondly how nothing was ever too much: "The staff in the hospice always made so much time for Brian. He loved chatting to them and making everybody laugh with his funny stories and jokey manner." Brian also played his guitar which was important to him and enjoyed on the ward: "It was such a lovely feeling, we knew he was absolutely in the best place possible and that really made what was a horrible situation that bit more bearable."



Brian eventually moved down to a hospice in Liverpool to spend his final days to be closer to all of his family but they will never forget how much he loved his time at St Mary's. Brian passed away on 4th April 2016 surrounded by his family.

Thank you so much to Brian's family for sharing such a private time and loving memories of Brian. Brian's story will hopefully encourage more patients and their families to access the care, comfort and support of St Mary's Hospice whenever and wherever they need it and reinforces to our kind supporters how every donation makes a real difference to a patient and their loved ones.

If you would like more information of leaving a gift in your will, please see our Gifts in Wills section of our website or talk to Geoff Steele on 01229 580305 or via email: [Geoff.Steele@stmarys.org.uk](mailto:Geoff.Steele@stmarys.org.uk).

Brian was a keen and talented artist, here's some wonderful examples of his work:

