

## Barry's Gift



St Mary's couldn't provide the care we do without your help. It's the kindness and compassion of people who've left money in their Wills – people like Barry - which allows the hospice to be there for our community. Please read Barry's story, which his family has kindly agreed to share.

### Barry's story ...

Barry Robinson was born on Christmas Eve, 1940 in Barrow-in-Furness, to Vera Margaret and John (Jack) Robinson. He was a much loved Son, Dad and a wonderful Grandad to the 'young ladies,' as well as highly regarded by his friends throughout his life.



Barry was academically bright and attended Alfred Barrow School and Barrow Grammar School. As a young boy he loved to read and play cricket, and remained an avid reader throughout his life. After moving to Manchester in the early sixties, Barry was employed at Connolly's Cables and ICI. He was a wonderful and talented vocalist, and regularly sang on the pub and club scene with his stage name, Barry Black, in the colourful and vibrant decade of the 1960's, belting out renditions of 'The Twelfth of Never,' 'Moon River' and his signature tune of 'Long Tall Sally.'

By 1967 the harbour lights were calling, and Barry returned to his beloved Barrow, and found employment at Bowater Scot and the Shipyards there. In his free time Barry enjoyed visiting much loved places such as Piel Island and Biggar Bank, not forgetting 'the circuit' which Barry would complete on a Saturday night, with friends Bill, Eddie and 'The Captain' Alan. It would start at The Royal, followed by the Navy Club, Pat's Club, Con's Club and so on. Barry also loved to take to the skies and travel with his friends to destinations such as Malta, Greece and Cyprus. Back on home soil Barry was a lifelong train enthusiast, travelling every railway line in the country, capturing an impressive collection of train photographs as well as keeping every train ticket ever purchased. Barry also had an interest in old buses and had many happy trips to the coast, and also spent many years building his extensive collections of coins and phone cards.



Barry first experienced the special work at St Mary's when his close friend Bill was cared for by the exceptional staff; he admired and greatly appreciated the support they provided and at this point he organised a gift for the hospice, which was left to them in his will.

Barry had a heart of gold, giving other gifts to those who helped him. For example, Barry was a huge supporter of Barrow Football Club, as was his friend who could not afford a season ticket, so Barry purchased one for him.

Barry had a long history of cancer, beginning in 2001 with cancer of the larynx. At this time he was supported by Christie's in Manchester, and as a thank you he left them a gift in his will. In 2007 he had bowel cancer, and later was also diagnosed with lung cancer. Barry's cancer battle was courageous, dignified and inspirational. However, Barry was open about one day needing the care and expertise of the Hospice. When this day arrived the Hospice provided a place of peace and comfort, where he received physical, social, spiritual and emotional medical care, tailored to his specific and increasingly complex needs. With his symptoms of pain, nausea and anxiety eased he could enjoy the wonderful home-made meals, and the company of his family.

To show his appreciation Barry requested that his furniture be sent to the Hospice Furniture Shop in Barrow to raise funds for the essential care and services provided by the Hospice. Barry's family would also like to thank the Hospice for their unwavering support during a very difficult time. The family also asked for donations from Barry's funeral to go to the Hospice, and as a lasting memorial of Barry they have purchased a leaf to be displayed on the Memory Tree outside the Hospice. Barry's family have also joined our Hospice Lottery – which is a quickly and easy way to support us by raising essential funds for our “exceptional services.” Thank you to Barry's family for sharing his story.

Thank you to Barry for your generous gift. In the last year legacy gifts provided nearly three months of care to local people. Your gift can make sure that St Mary's will be there for the people in our community.

For more information on gifts in wills please contact Geoff Steele on 01229 580305 or [Geoff.steele@stmaryshospice.org.uk](mailto:Geoff.steele@stmaryshospice.org.uk)