

Vivien's Tribute

It was in 1954 that the Kendrick family came to Staple Hill Corps. On Sunday mornings Barry and Allan would call in to our home and Susan and I along with our Dad would all walk together to Sunday School. This was the start of a long friendship between the two families.

In 1957 our family first went to Australia, returning back to Bristol in 1963 when I returned to Staple Hill Corps.

The Staple Hill Singing Company presented a musical programme on March 12th 1966 at Clevedon Corps, travelling by coach; well we all know what those coach journeys lead too, and yes a friendship started, blossoming in to love, eventually we were married in 1971.

Moving to Australia in 1972 we spent 26 happy years there making some beautiful friendships and lasting memories, and this has been evident in recent days with phone calls and concerns, and I know these friends are with us in thought here today. We were so thrilled to have revisited Australia last year.

Allan was certainly a handy man given a paint brush, hammer and nail he would do a first class job, everything he did had to be just right and put away in a tidy order.

He was always willing to help anyone who needed advice about certain jobs no matter how large or small. He enjoyed looking after our home maintenance, gardening and whatever he could find he would do. Sometimes he would look for things to do, he always needed to be busy. He was always a great help to me in fact we shared most domestic duties and it was lovely not to ask him to do things. His willingness was always there.

We were blessed with a happy marriage, God was part of our married life and life was good and kind because of this.

Allan was very proud of his nieces and nephews, Sarah, Nathan, Hannah, Philip, Christopher and Andrew, he showed interest in all that they have achieved. He loved them all and he was their special Uncle. In June 2009 a great nephew, Oliver was born and is already bringing much love and joy in to our family. Allan was so looking forward to seeing Oliver grow up.

Allan was a man of principles and standards he was a committed Christian who may not have gone around making noise and fuss but he loved God and this was evident through the service he has given through The Salvation Army. He aimed to give God his best, he believed only the best and highest was good enough for God.

Allan and I had a very special friendship and I will certainly miss him around. We shared so much love and I treasure this time we had together. Many laughs, joys, sorrows and tears have all helped to make our married life so happy. Being married to Allan has been the best thing that's ever happened to me, he has been my husband, my lover and my dearest friend. He has helped me face life's challenges secure in the knowledge that I have had someone special who has thought about me, supported me and cared for me more deeply than anyone else. I am so thankful to have shared my life with him.

Thank you darling for being a wonderful caring and loving husband, I will miss you but your love will live in my heart forever.

God bless you Allan, love Vivien