

*A Celebration of the Life  
of*



***Raymond Alexander  
Ward***

*5<sup>th</sup> January 1924—28<sup>th</sup> May 2018*

## ***Music: Stranger on the Shore***

*Acker Bilk*

## **Welcome**

**Felicity Harvest,**  
*Humanist Celebrant*

## **Thoughts on life and death**

***Reading: The Tree of Life***

*Herbert Read*

## **The Tribute**



***Ray with his  
parents***



## **The Tree of Life**

*Millions of leaves have preceded me  
and millions will follow me; the tree  
itself grows and endures.*

*My own attitude towards death has  
never been one of fear ...*

*My favourite symbol is the Tree of Life.*

*The human race is the trunk and  
branches of this tree and*

*individual men and women are the  
leaves, which appear one season,  
flourish for a summer, and then die.*

*I am like a leaf of this tree and one day  
I shall decay and fall and become a  
pinch of compost about its roots.*

*But meanwhile I am conscious of the  
tree's flowing sap and steadfast  
strength.*

*Deep down in my consciousness is the  
consciousness of a*

*collective life, a life of which I am a  
part and to which I*

*contribute a minute but unique exten-  
sion.*

*When I die and fall, the tree remains,  
nourished to some small degree by my  
brief manifestation of life.*

Herbert Read



*Early adult  
life*





*Later life  
including yet another  
plumbing project,  
Christmas with Tom,  
Frankie and Jim's wed-  
ding and travelling with  
Jean*



**Reading:** *from The Wind in the Willows, Kenneth Graham*

## The Reflection

**Music:** *Lacrymosa, Do not Stand at my Grave, Howard Goodall*

## The Committal

Please will you now stand if you are able.

Please sit after the commital.

## Closing words

***Lacrymosa – Do not stand at my grave and weep***

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the softly falling snow.  
I am the gentle showers of rain,  
I am the fields of ripening grain.  
I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush  
Of far-off birds in circling flight.  
I am the starshine of the night.*

*I am in every flower that blooms,  
I am in still and empty rooms.  
I am the child that yearns to sing,  
I am in each lovely thing.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there – I did not die.*

Mary Elizabeth Frye (1904-) modified by Howard Goodall

You are all now invited to afternoon tea at the Red Lion Horsell, to raise a cuppa and a consume some cake in Ray's memory. Details of how to get there are enclosed in your order of ceremony.

Donations will go to Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People in Loughborough, or can be sent on to the funeral director, Lodge Brothers, 32 St Jude's Road Englefield Green, TW20 0BY.

Please take care of yourselves, and of each other

**Music:** *J. S. Bach: Ich freue mich in dir, BWV 133, arranged M. Knight, performed by Septura Brass Septet*



Celebrant: Felicity Harvest

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