A Celebration of the Life of



Raymond Alexander Ward

5th January 1924—28th 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 extension.

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

Herbert Read

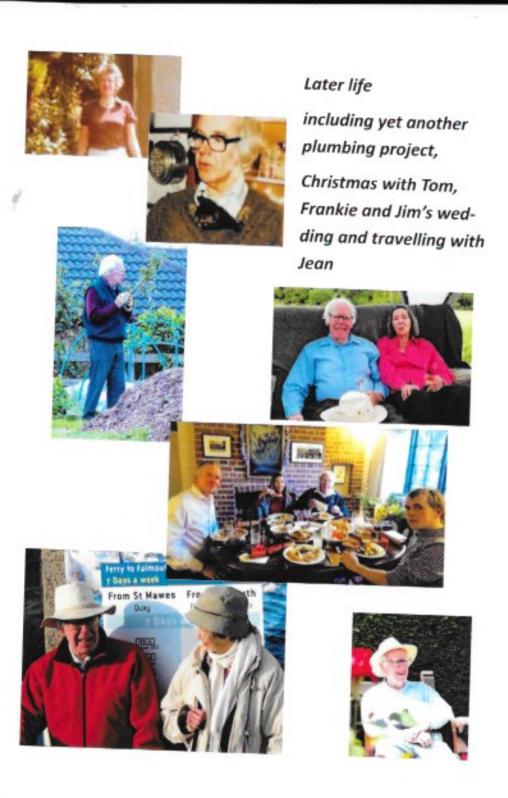




Early adult life







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 OBY.

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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