

A Service to Celebrate the Life of

Kirsty Fraser Meddings

17th March 1973 – 10th December 2020



South Oxfordshire Crematorium
Wednesday 23rd December 2020 at 12noon

*Ceremony led by Sheila Churchill
Humanist UK accredited celebrant*

Service For Kirsty

Music
'Red Kite'

Welcome and Opening Words

Thoughts about Life and Death

'The Sea and the Beach' by Tessa Wilkinson
Read by Charlie Rapple

*The sea seems to illustrate pain and sorrow so well
It comes in and it goes out*

*For a while it is there, overwhelming, covering everything
Then slowly the tide turns and it withdraws*

*For a while we can see the beauty of the shells, the seaweed
We can rejoice in the patterns in the sand
We can feel the corrugated ripples under our feet
Alive to what is around, and beyond*

But then the tide turns and again it is all washed away, all overwhelmed

*We feel like the crashing of the waves on rocks
Raw and out of control, full of anger and rage, battered and bruised
Tossed about like flotsam floating wherever we are thrown
There are so many questions. Why then? Why them? But no answers*

*Then the sea calms and gently the waves lap the rocks
We are soothed and the inner turmoil is calmed
In time we can learn to move up the beach as the tide comes in.
Out of its reach. Not to be overwhelmed.
The pain is still there, but in control*

*We can recognise the pain, revisiting the sadness
Acknowledging how much the person is missed
We learn to turn away and look to the future
Knowing the person will always be part of us
Always loved and always remembered.*

Memories of Kirsty

With contributions from her family, friends and work colleagues

A Time of Reflection

During which we listen to 'With Or Without You'

Closing Words

'To those I love' by Isla Paschal Richardson

Read by Sam Burrell

*If I should ever leave you whom I love
To go along the Silent Way,
Grieve not,
Nor speak of me with tears,
But laugh and talk
Of me as if I were beside you there.
(I'd come-I'd come, could I but find a way!
But would not tears and grief be barriers?)
And when you hear a song or
See a bird I loved,
Please do not let the thought of me be sad...
For I am loving you just as I always have...
You were so good to me!
There are so many things I wanted still
To do—so many things to say to you...
Remember that I did not fear—
It was just leaving you that was so hard to face...
We cannot see Beyond...
But this I know:
I loved you so -
Twas heaven here with you*

The Committal

Where we say farewell to Kirsty

Music

'Lippy Kids'



Music was incredibly important to Kirsty.....

We have chosen three pieces of music that, as well as being songs that she loved and would regularly sing along to, they reveal something of her character, of her as a person.

*Veda Park's **Red Kite** represents her love of her family and friends. The song was written to honour the memory of Kirsty's father Pete by her husband James; it was then also sung at James's funeral. This summer one of our neighbours was regularly feeding a kite with a broken leg, and it gave Kirsty huge joy whenever it passed overhead. James's guitar is on the recording, the voice is Peter Madams with James harmonizing.*

***With Or Without You** is very much Kirsty herself. As a young person, U2 were one of many bands that meant a lot to her. With Or Without You is a song that she asked me to play for her at least once every two weeks. She heard the band play live on the Joshua Tree tour in 1987. 'Through the storm we reach the shore', Kirsty's life had many storms but she is now safe on the shore, loved and cared for as a precious diamond in all our minds, forever.*

***Lippy Kids** by Elbow is a reflection of Kirsty's ambition for herself and others, and her belief in seizing the day. She was immensely proud of working for CrossRef, and for what they have achieved as an organisation in a relatively short time. 'Build a Rocket Boys' as well as being words she would sing frequently really are the way she felt about her colleagues and friends in the industry. All through her treatment she never took a day off, other than when she had to go to the hospital.*

On behalf of Kirsty's family thank you for being here today.

If desired, donations in memory of Kirsty are gratefully received for



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*There is a box as you leave the chapel or
you may make an online donation at
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kirsty-meddings
Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors
Abingdon and Kennington.*

