

David was born 30th April 1948, in Crayford, Kent. His family moved to Buckinghamshire where he attended Princes Risborough Convent School and then the Grange School, Aylesbury.

From a young age David manifested a natural rhythm and flair for music, “tapping” anything that came to hand. He was keen to embark on a career in the music industry, but his Father wisely advised him to complete an apprenticeship first in the printing trade before becoming a full-time musician.

While completing his apprenticeship David became well known in the local music scene drumming with many local bands including Gearbox which was voted Bucks Group of the year 1966. In the seventies and eighties he became a professional drummer, moving to London and recording and touring in Britain and abroad with Bands of the time. Those who worked and made music with him saw David as a friendly, calm and kind soul with a positive outlook on life and a gentle sense of humour.

Towards the end of the eighties, David decided to settle down and started work in the printing trade where the wisdom of his Father’s advice became apparent.

David heard about the Bahá’í Faith through a Mind Body Spirit Festival in 1984 in London. He followed up by reading “The Bahá’í Faith - An Introduction by Faizi” and got in touch with the local Bahá’is in Aylesbury. He declared as a Bahá’í on his birthday 30th April 1985.

One of his favourite prayers includes the words,

*“Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.”*

which helps explain his spiritual attraction to his newly found Faith.

David found a new love and vocation as a portrait and commercial photographer successfully launching his new career as a professional when he was made redundant as a printer in 1991.

David was not without medical challenges. In the year 2000 he had a brain haemorrhage but made a remarkable, fighting recovery. He was left with a disability that didn’t stop him from participating in local Bahá’í activities, continuing as a photographer and serving with local voluntary organisations, despite significant transportation challenges.

When he had his brain haemorrhage and was in a coma the doctors advised that it might be kinder to switch the ventilator off as they didn’t believe that after several months he would recover. Lyn (David’s sister) believed he wanted to live so disregarded their advice, however, she knew from conversations with him that his greatest fear was not to be able to speak. When he eventually came round Dennis Perren held a picture of Abdu’l-Bahá in front of him and asked who it was in which he

uttered his first word 'Abdu'l-Bahá proving to everyone that he was on the road to recovery.

Sadly, he had more health issues, developing prostate cancer around 2006, bowel cancer in 2016 and in 2019, pancreatic cancer. His response to a negative prognosis for pancreatic cancer was again truly heroic. With the power of prayer and a belief in science he bravely went through courses of radiotherapy, chemotherapy and finally a major operation. Initially, he recovered but finally on the 24th February of this year, just after midnight, he succumbed.

He leaves behind his 99-year-old, Mother, Nancy, and his only sibling, Lyn. His dear sister cared for him through his illnesses to the end of his life and was reciting a prayer to him as he passed into the next world.

David was a unifier who never had an ill word for anyone and made time for everyone. He will be dearly missed.