

Sally's Eulogy – Maurice Nutt's eldest daughter

Good afternoon

We are here this afternoon to honor the memory of Maurice Raymond Nutt.

What a lovely thing it is, to be able to come here today and share our loving thoughts and memories whilst praying together, giving thanks to the Lord for the wonderful life he led.

For those who do not know me, I am Sally, and it is my privilege to be Maurice and Shirley's eldest daughter.

Many of you will have known my father for many years, perhaps as an engineer, as an officer, a diplomat, a churchwarden, a brother, a colleague in any one of the multiple clubs and organizations he attended in this his community his beloved Bishopsteignton. We all know I am sure just how amazing he was! He was into everything.

In all of his capacities, and in all of his activities, I am sure that we would all agree that he always conducted himself as a gentleman, a true Gentle Man.

A man who commanded respect, who was genuinely looked up to, whether to impart advice or solve a problem, he was someone you could count on.

My father was the type of man who was able to instruct and educate with kindness.

As children, Simon, Sophie and I, all knew what was expected of us, and that was that
Be Navy, Be Nice, Behave.

I do have some lovely memories of my father kind and gentle father. Of him coming home from work, and me hugging a beautifully starched white shirt, with a smell of Trebor extra strong mints and aftershave mixing together.

Then holding tight to his waist as I stood on his brightly polished uniform shoes learning to waltz around the kitchen and I remember polishing those shoes!

I remember well his time on HMS Hermes, going out to sea once on a family day, and my excitement as each week when I was away at school to receive an airmail letter with his news from Norway or from the Mediterranean. The paper was awful, an almost transparent three fold envelope, very difficult to open, but the handwriting couldn't be mistaken. Every week without fail!

My mother, just like the rest of the family will continue to cherish memories of Daddy painting houses, several different houses, of him always having something to fix on the garage floor and of daddy tidying out his sock drawer!

I remember well our childhood holidays when we used to travel down on the Motorail to Newton Abbot, to stay a couple of weeks in the Bairnscroft hotel over in Shaldon, to visit this beautiful area which would eventually become my parents' home for their retirement

And what a lovely time they have had here. What a joy it is for them to have been able to share all these years together surrounded by such a wonderful supporting community. A true blessing.

Not only was my father able to enjoy his retirement here, but he was also able to enjoy his years as a grandfather repeating many of the activities Simon, Sophie and myself enjoyed as children.

All of the grandchildren; Jessica and James, Katie and Rosie, Bernardo, Santiago, Estephania and Mauricio, will I am sure, cherish memories of Grandpa here in the front pew of church, Grandpa on the moor eating a 99 ice cream cone, with no regard to the weather! Of Grandpa with a red pixie hat, of grandpa at Teignmouth pier, and on the Den, of Grandpa at the Donkey Sanctuary, always accompanied by a west highland terrier.

I am certain Jessica and Manuel will repeat these memories in the future with his great grandson Jose Manuel and grandpa will remain in our hearts always.

For a child and a grandchild he was fun to be around. How many 80 year old Grandpas sing "I want to ride my bicycle" at the top of their voices when Freddy Mercury comes on the radio! He really was a man of many talents!

His life gives testimony of a man of true faith. A life filled with honest Christian values. An example to his family and friends. He was blessed through his service to others.

For many years in the Royal Navy and later in the diplomatic community he served his Queen and country, proudly and with dignity.

Later in his retirement he served his church and his community.

But above all, and faithfully to his very last day on this earth, my father served God.

As we say our goodbyes to one of the world's beautiful people, Let us be joyful and thankful for the certainty that Maurice Nutt, my Daddy, is with his beloved heavenly Father.

Thank you