

A Memorial Service

Celebrating the Life of



Jim Ward

27th November 1935 – 13th December 2015

Harpurhey Community Church

Friday 8th January 2016

Service conducted by Simon & Michael Brawn with Paul Holden

The lad, the brother.

James Francis Ward grew up around Collyhurst, Cheetham Hill and Harpurhey, a keen cyclist and swimmer. The eldest of three, he remained very close to his brother, Alan and sister, Brenda his whole life.



Husband and Dad.

Jim married Sybil and they had a son, James. As a dad, he had a magic way with time. Even working, running The Brigade and helping at church he was always right there. Setting up soldiers. Taking gliders to the park and boats to the Clough lake. Painting my

bike. Making a garage. And later, a snooker table. Chatting from beneath the car or while loading the roof-rack, ready for Rhyl. He'd shut the curtains for a slide-show and leave us the best chocolates. We'd watch Flash Gordon together. And all the old films, though he'd grumble at remakes. He'd buy model planes, one each, and help me with mine before carefully making his. He'd draw me some knights, put caps in my gun, make forts out of cardboard. As the years went on he'd help with my maths, but attempt it the old way. He'd fill his car with my mates and take us all out. Then he taught me to drive and gave me a car.



Uncle James, Uncle Jim.

He always had time for nephews and nieces. First, his brother's children, David, Peter and Elaine. Followed by his great-nieces by marriage, Becky, Katie and Tina. And their kids too. He'd always be down on the carpet, playing their games or amusing them with things he'd made or drawn.

He always had time.

Order of Service

Welcome

By Simon Brawn

Hymn 1

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Scripture Readings

Tributes

By Mike Brawn and George Mallard

Hymn 2

How Great Thou Art

Tributes

From Lt. Col. Michael Connelly and the Church Lads Brigade

Tributes

By Jim's niece, Susan Howarth

Final Words

By Simon Brawn

Hymn 3

Amazing Grace

And leaving to Onward Christian Soldiers

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Proceedings will continue at Blackley Crematorium

Continuation

By Simon Brawn and Paul Holden

Scripture Readings.

Words of The Committal and Closing Prayer

Brigade Officer, churchgoer.

For 67 years, Jim had been in The Church Lads Brigade. He joined in 1948 and was still opening up a Brigade just a few weeks before he passed away. Every Thursday night, heading out with a boot full of bugles, caps and belts, crisps and footballs. That was him. Plus those days in full uniform, on parade Sundays, medals gleaming. His Brigade served an area that could be challenging at times but he continued to open those doors for those that wanted to come in. At St. Stephen's and then Harpurhey United Church and these last few years at St. Thomas' nearby, he was Mr. Ward to generations of local lads, and recently girls. ...Or Sir.



He was almost ever-present at church. On Sundays, shoes polished, suit on and his tie straight, of course. But through the week too, in a big coat dappled with paint with his flask of coffee. To mow the grass, to mend things, to replace things. His big bunch of keys jingling at his side.

Artist, potter, photographer.

Photography had been his hobby his whole adult life. He was never without his camera and had a particular interest in churches. Always trying to capture their stained glass windows. In retirement, he'd discovered pottery. If you've seen what he's made, you wouldn't forget it. Who else would make a cowboy hat out of clay? Or a giant sand-yacht with wheels that turned. In recent years, he'd shared his love of drawing and painting with his art groups.

And finally, Grandad Jim.

He became a grandad in 2009 when Jimmy arrived. From the moment he stepped out of his car at Jimmy's house or opened his own door to Jimmy here in Manchester, he was tireless in amusing Jimmy no end. Recently, Freddy became grandson number two. How he'd light up when Grandad Jim appeared!

“I'm going to miss Grandad Jim a hundred times infinity,” said Jimmy.



His son, James and family would like to thank you all for being here today and for being part of Jim's life. We'd like to imagine you enjoyed those times you shared with him as much as we enjoyed each and every moment we had with him.

You are welcome to join them for refreshments from 1:15 at...

Blackley Golf Club, Victoria Avenue East, M9 7HW

From the crematorium, go straight up Victoria Avenue, crossing Rochdale Road at the crossroads. Then continue up Victoria Avenue and turn into the Golf Club directly before the gym.

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If you wish to make a donation in memory of Jim, it can be given to
Harpurhey Community Church

