

Building Confidence Through Creativity & Community

Safe & Sound

DORSET

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

Doreen Tootill March 13th 1932– March 6th 2025

Reflections from her daughter Dot:

Safe and Sound Dorset women used to greet and welcome my mum as a treasured elder and at 92 how she enjoyed their company; eating, painting, crocheting, singing, exercising and more! They often called her 'my mum' as that was how I referred to her! She was truly loved and cherished. *This photo is from a recent visit to Brownsea Island.*



My mum lived an extraordinary life. She was born in Liverpool, from a family housed in a council house after the war. At the age of 18 she became a nurse and then a midwife, cycling the streets like they do in Call the Midwife TV series!

It's overwhelming what an extraordinary life she lived to the full, facing so many challenges along the way.

At 23 she married Jim and they left a year later with their first born on a boat to work in Thailand. This was where they committed 35 years living among the Thai people, as volunteers and friends. They returned permanently to England for their retirement, with 15 grandchildren and eventually 8 great-grandchildren.

Whilst in Bournemouth, my mum was involved in Boscombe Baptist Church, Open-The-Book sessions going into Pokesdown Primary school, and Safe and Sound Dorset sessions integrating well in the local community here.

Others' reflections:

'What an honour it's been to know your mum, Doreen, fond memories. She will be missed.'

"Your mum meant so much to me...she was like Christmas, you never want the end, but just green, constant all year round and knowing she will live in our hearts forever. Just like the pointed arrow top of the tree, we know where she is, and the star at the top shines her light for us to follow for hope in the darkest night. We will miss your mum lots.'

"For me, Doreen was an inspirational mentor and role model, unwavering strong beacon of hope, faith and a resilient knowing that "it is well with my soul." In her quietness there was serenity, simplicity and contentment- most helpful when one feels tossed and turned.'

'From the moment I met this quiet, softly spoken, calm person called Doreen, whose brown eyes were truly the windows to the most beautiful soul, whose loving kindness flowed so abundantly and freely, there was an instant deep, connection, especially as our shared faith bonded us together.'



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Others' reflections – continued:

'Doreen's unflappable calm made me, a recently bereaved widow, who had emigrated in shock, subsequent to my husband's unexpected passing and numerous harsh setbacks, feel safe.

Doreen, understood that sometimes silence can speak the loudest.

Her intuitive wisdom, gave me space to start processing the pain and healing, in the shelter of her resilient love, burgeoning hope grew.'

'I'm so glad I got to meet your lovely mum. She impacted so many for good and she loved her family. She was a wonderful lady, an inspiration and beautifully dressed. She always had a kind word. She will be missed.'

Click on this link, or paste it in the URL for a tribute to Doreen's life on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BSChqshxq/?>



From a family friend:

For a family who lived a long and full life, Jim and Doreen touched many people and in many different ways. Just 2 weeks before Doreen passed away she told me personally how the Lord had been so kind to her; she still lived on her own, walked to the shops and managed her life on her own, giving thanks in a typically unassuming attitude.

As colleagues in Thailand we shared much in common, as pioneers in challenging situations, living our lives in scrutiny of the insatiable inquisitiveness of the Thai people we came to love! She was someone I looked up to. I got to know Doreen better in Newbury, the Bournemouth. She was a very faithful member of our OMF prayer group. It's not her achievements so much as her character that truly defines her, which I can sum up in 3 words;

Humility, as she rarely spoke about herself. In her openness to people all were alike, to be welcomed and served help in any way they needed it.

Authenticity, what you saw was what you got with commitment and loyalty, prayerfulness and trust in Jesus in all circumstances, even through the loss of their daughter, Janet.

Genuine contentment in God, as Doreen had indomitable courage, faith and risk taking, but she was also a consistent Christian, faithful and content in whatever circumstances she was in. 'I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances, I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.' How true that was of Doreen.