

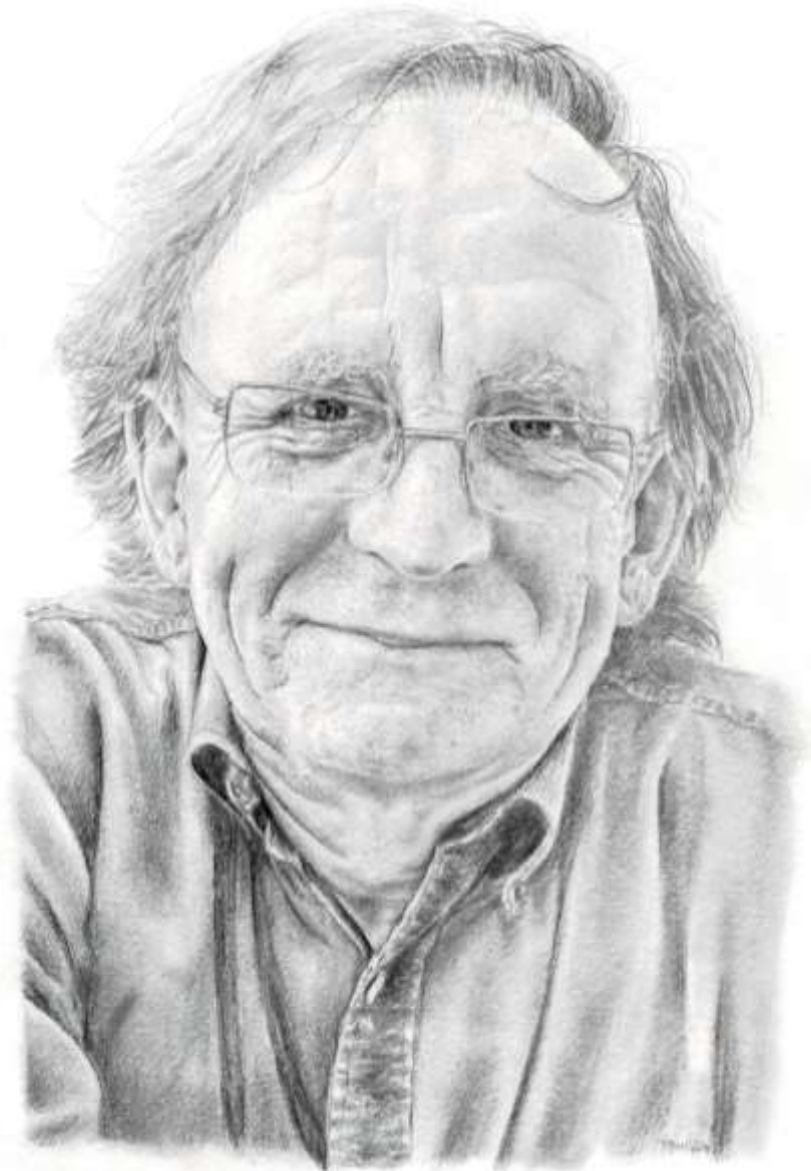
**Mass to Celebrate
the life of
Martin Prior Hollins**

9th April 1944 – 12th January 2025



Friday 21st February 2025
Worth Abbey

Main Celebrant: Fr Rod Jones



Drawn by Rebecca Witchalls

Donations in memory of Martin can be made via the below links or QR codes to either: **Beyond Words**, a national charity started by Sheila, and of which Martin was a founding trustee; or the **Farmers Alliance for Restoration**, a charity started by Martin's brother-in-law Hugh, introducing permaculture to farmers in East Africa.

Books Beyond Words:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19355>



The Farmers Alliance for Restoration:

<https://www.farmers-alliance.org/donate>



Martin was born in Manchester on Easter Sunday, 1944, the first child of Harry Hollins, a primary school teacher, and Ruby Crofts, a seamstress. Martin loved recounting the story of his early life. With his father away at war, Ruby found it easier as a mum with a toddler to be an assistant youth hostel warden rather than live with her mother. Martin was enjoyed by many doting walkers at Castleton Youth Hostel, no doubt setting in train his lifelong passion for parties, hillwalking and youth hostels.



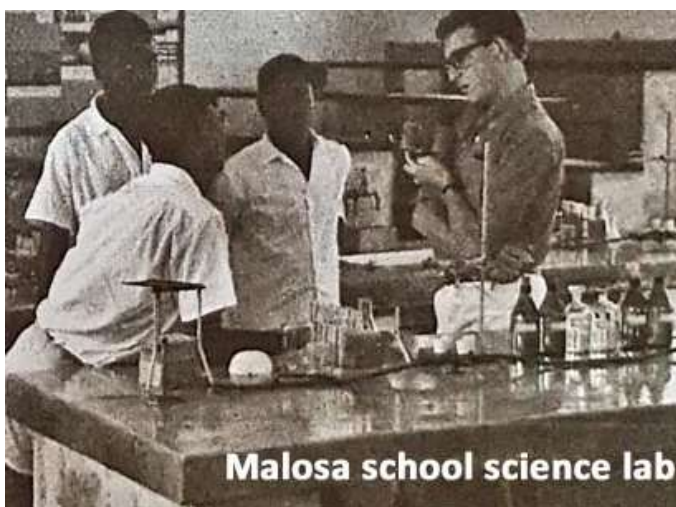
He grew up with two younger brothers and a lively extended family. His surviving brother Phil has travelled from Australia with his wife Sue and their son Chris. His brother Barry's widow, Doreen has travelled from Scotland. We have over 40 family members here today and are grateful for their presence.



The Hollins family moved to Cheadle Hulme when Martin was nine years old. The home Harry and Ruby made was much loved and remembered by their grandchildren, including for the vine, raspberries and ornaments from their worldwide travels. Martin 'rescued' the vine when the house was sold and the grapes are still going strong in Bookham.

Martin was educated at the Manchester Warehousemen and Clerks' Orphan School (now called Cheadle Hulme School). He credited this institution as foundational for his understanding of the world, as the pupil population was unusually diverse and global for the time and place.

Martin achieved a first-class degree in Metallurgy at Birmingham University. He taught science in Malawi with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) for 18 months, which influenced his fantastic dancing style and most importantly led to meeting Sheila, the love of his life, through the returned volunteer charity (VOSA) in London. They married in 1969 whilst still students.



Martin worked part-time as a teacher alongside doing a PhD at Imperial College, whilst Sheila finished her medical studies.

When Martin and Sheila had their first child, Kathryn, he described his experience of becoming a father and beginning family life with warmth and a big smile: “I knew life would never be the same again!”. Nigel, Emily and Abigail were born over the following years. Martin, a teacher with school holidays, and Sheila, a GP then psychiatrist, proved a good combination for family life. Martin loved being with children: whether as a father, uncle, grandfather, friend or teacher, this was one of his greatest joys and the one we will hold most fondly in our hearts.

Martin was proud to have followed in his father’s footsteps as a teacher, watercolour artist, walker and lover of nature; and his children and grandchildren proudly share these passions between them.



Martin’s love of Salcombe led him to propose to Sheila in front of Overbeck’s Youth Hostel, with stunning views of the Estuary – still a cherished place for holidays.



Many friends and colleagues have commented on Martin's deep faith. After attending church with Sheila for many years, he became a Catholic in 1985 at Sacred Heart church, Wimbledon. The Worth Abbey Lay Community (now called Lay Community of St Benedict, or LCSB), the Monastic Community and this beautiful Abbey, have been a deep source of growth and development for the whole family since their first Easter here in 1977. About a third of those present today are friends we met through Worth Abbey.

Martin's enthusiasm and skill for teaching, plus his PhD, proved a huge advantage, facilitating rapid promotion to Head of Department and then Director of an ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) Science Advisory Centre. Offering science teachers creative and innovative opportunities for learning was one of his happiest and most productive working experiences.

Several popular publishing projects followed, including an A-level independent learning programme for London children attending schools without a Physics teacher. He worked at Bath University with Prof Jeff Thompson, where one of his contributions was an A-level textbook on Medical Physics. He also worked with Terry Marsh in a fantastic role advising on three series of BBC science programmes for primary-age children. Later he became the principal officer for science at QCA, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. After his retirement he continued to be well known and sought out as a consultant and a mentor.

Martin joined the Association for Science Education in 1968 and was made an honorary member in 2006. He had many roles including as a Trustee, and until recently a member of the Quality and Audit Commission. He was editor of Primary Science and author of numerous books, articles and other resources. He attended the ASE Annual conference 40 years running, many times as a speaker. At this year's conference, the week before he died, he was awarded a Special Service Award in absentia in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the ASE and his lifelong contribution to science education.

At heart Martin was a science educator who taught all ages including teachers, children and adolescents and those with special educational needs. He taught science to his grandchildren and other home-schooling families in Bookham over many years, teaching his last lessons in December 2024.



His voluntary leadership positions included Chair of Governors at St Joseph's special school (Nigel's former school) and Chair of the STEMM Disability Advisory Committee, hosted by the Royal Society. On the Board of the Astra Zeneca Primary science teaching trust, he found it fulfilling giving grants to teachers and schools. Martin was a founding trustee of the charity, Books Beyond Words, founded by Sheila and inspired by Nigel. When Nigel was young, Martin used his skill as an artist to communicate through pictures rather than words.

Martin valued his friends, from so many varied places and experiences, whether from university days, VSO, walking, church, Worth and LCSB, work, or his local community. Your presence here today is testament to how much he loved all of you as much as how you loved him. Thank you for being here.

Gathering Music

Choir and Musicians

Entrance Hymn

Everyone

Gather us in, by Marty Haugen

Here in this place, new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
gather us in the blind and the lame;
call to us now and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion,
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL RITE

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Priest: ... Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: ... Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Priest: ... Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Read by Jane Blanckenhagen, sister-in-law*

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death for ever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Sung by Joseph, grandson

Psalm 34

and former pupils Angela, Lily, Joshua

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will thank the Lord at all times;

His praise always on my lips.

I will glorify Him for all He has done;

May the oppressed hear and be glad!

Proclaim with me the Lord's greatness;

let us praise his name together!

I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me;

he delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to Him are radiant;
they will not be disappointed.
The helpless call to Him, and He answers;
He rescues them from their distress.

The angel of the Lord guards those who honour Him
and rescues them from danger.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Happy are those who find refuge in him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Read by Father Luke Jolly

Matthew 19:13-15

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.' And he laid his hands on them and went away.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Father Chris Dobson

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

Everyone

Text: Francis Rous (1579-1659) from Psalm 23

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill.
For thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou has furnishèd
in presence of my foes,
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for
the praise and glory of his name, for our good and
the good of all his holy Church.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right and just.

The priest reads the Preface, at the end of which all sing:

Cantor: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

Cantor: Lord God of Hosts.

All: Lord God of Hosts.

Cantor: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

All: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Cantor: Hosanna in the highest.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

Cantor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

The priest says the Eucharistic Prayer. After the consecration:

Priest: The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

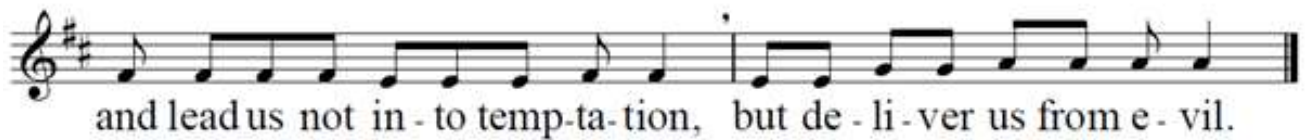
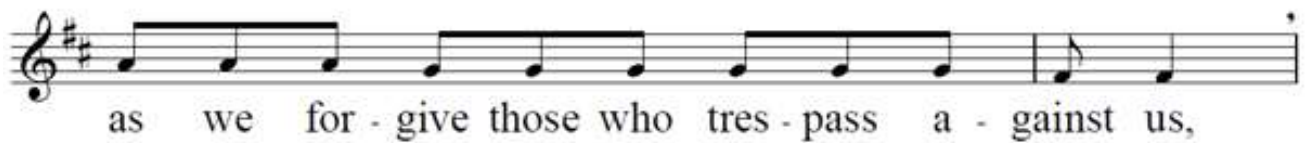
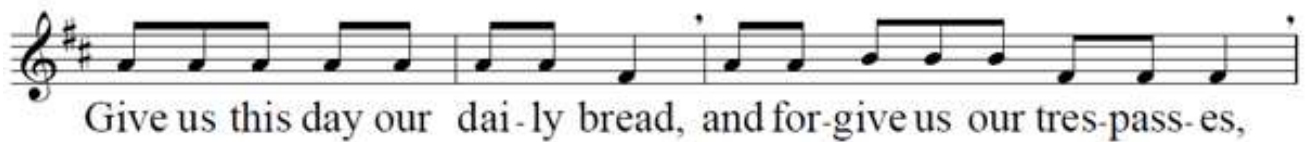
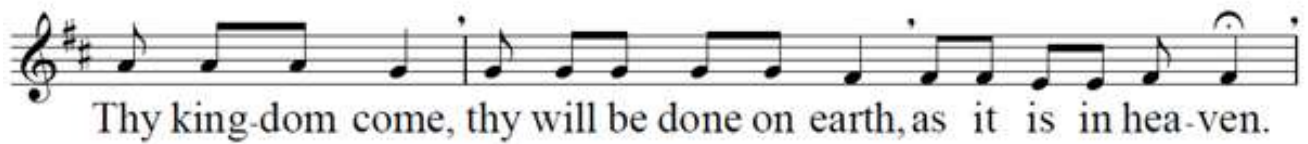
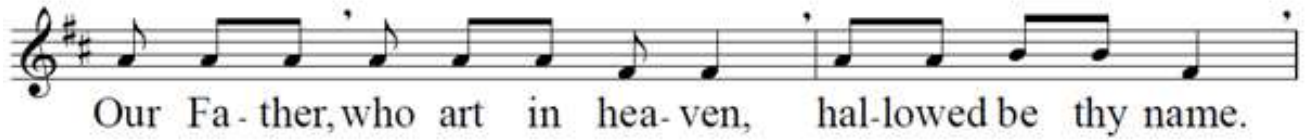
The priest continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which ends:

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:



Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

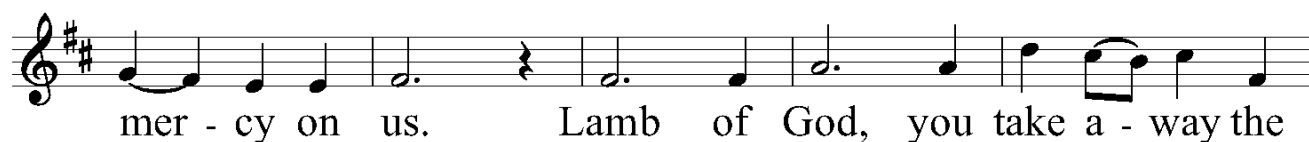
Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace.



Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

HOLY COMMUNION

Instrumental music

played by Giles Kennedy

Communion Hymn

The Cloud's Veil, by Liam Lawton

Sung by Family

*Even though the rain hides the stars,
Even though the mist swirls the hills,
Even when the dark clouds veil the sky,
God is by my side.*

*Even when the sun shall fall in sleep,
Even when at dawn the sky shall weep,
Even in the night when storms shall rise,
You are by my side, You are by my side.*

Bright the stars at night
That mirror heaven's way to you.
Bright the stars in light
Where dwell the saints in love and truth.

Deep the feast of life
Where saints shall gather in deep peace.
Deep in heaven's light
Where sorrows pass beyond death's sleep.

Blest are they who sing
The fellowship of saints in light.
Blest is heaven's King.
All saints adore the Lord, Most High.

Prayer after Communion

Tributes

Dorabella Hollins, granddaughter

Melanie Hollins, cousin

Dick Bird, best man at Martin & Sheila's wedding, and former Director of Fundraising at VSO.

Terry Marsh, former Head of Schools Programming for the BBC, and director of many of the Edge Hill Players pantomimes Martin performed in.



Poem

Read by Philip Hollins, brother

The Self-Consciousness of the Poet, by Martin Hollins

How do I write?

As I was taught in school: take a pen, make a line,
Shape it to make a letter, gather letters to make a word,
Combine words to make a sentence,
Continue sentences to make meaning.

Where and when do I write?

At my desk, when I am organized.
At my bedside, when I have dreamed.
Wherever and whenever I am inspired to make meaning.

Why do I write?

To capture a happening, paint a scene,
To express my feelings, explore my thoughts,
To play with an idea, imagine a tale,
To extract from life, lived or dreamed,
Some sense of a meaning.

What do I write?

Haikus – distilling my responses to nature, landscape and powerful emotions.

Verses – animating ideas with rhyme and rhythm, around activities, politics and science.

Reflections – exploring with allusions and metaphors, experiences of life, faith, and coffee.

Stories – constructing narratives drawn from familiar and exotic adventures. Each attempting to express its own meaning.

What have I written?

Linear sequences of shaped lines.

Do you know what I mean?

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Everyone

Organ played by Giles Kennedy

Jerusalem, by Hubert Parry

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the Countenance Divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold:
Bring me my arrows of desire:
Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire.

I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.

SONG OF FAREWELL

Sung by choir

Irish Blessing, by Lizzy Ann Dunworth

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you, may God hold you,
hold you in the palm of his hand.

Tributes from friends and colleagues



“.... his smile, his warmth and his appreciation of everybody regardless of who they were”.



“Martin had a unique mix of being down to earth but self-assured and with a huge amount of humility”.



“He was unfailingly polite and gentlemanly, funny and always good company”.

“He was literally the sunshine: he effused love, enthusiasm and joy for life and people”.



“Every once in a while, we meet someone who makes a significant difference in our lives. Martin was such a person”.



“..... someone who can truly be called ‘a good man’. A good man shines quietly in the memories of everyone who met Martin. He cared little for himself but cared for and loved others. You feel better for having known him and his memory will ‘shine on’. He was a rare person: gentle, warm, witty, encouraging and extraordinarily cheerful in the face of adversity”.



“I will remember his total relaxed at homeness with both religion and science, and how he held them together in himself, an ability and orientation so rare but needed in our world.”

“Martin was much valued for his wisdom, knowledge and friendliness... His care for others, especially for his family, was deep and all encompassing.”

“What a privilege it has been to know this great man, so knowledgeable, yet so humble, so joyful and with such a love for the children and so generous with his time.”

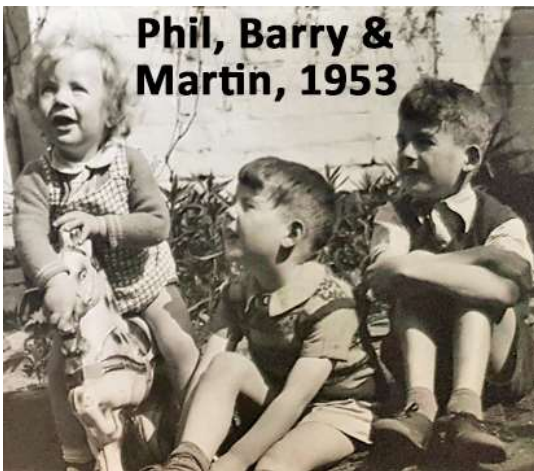


“Martin exuded kindness and always with a twinkle in his eye.”



Tribute from Phil Hollins – Martin’s brother

Martin was not only my eldest brother but a dear friend and mentor. He was an unassuming man of many talents and achievements and an inspiration in my own life’s journey.



Although 7 years older than I, which seemed like a generational difference when I was young, he provided objectives and purposes for me to aspire to through his own experience and accomplishments. Although I could not emulate what he did, I was motivated to pursue postgraduate education and travel the world. His

experience with VSO in Malawi reinforced my aim to follow a career in overseas development.

He was always generous in accommodating me on my travels through London and he was also very generous in his welcome and humour. He made a profound impact on the world and touched the lives of so many people. I shall cherish his memory.



Martin asked that any donations in his memory should be given to these two charities founded by family members:

Beyond Words (Books Beyond Words CIO, registered charity no. 1183942) was founded by Sheila Hollins and inspired by Martin's



Beyond Words

use of art to communicate with their son, Nigel, and Sheila's clinical experience as a psychiatrist. There is a tribute to Martin on the website:

<https://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/newsroom/remembering-martin-hollins>

Our picture stories empower people with learning disabilities to navigate life's challenges – loss, love, health, justice – ensuring everyone, regardless of literacy or ability, can understand and be understood. Our books are read in Book Clubs in libraries, schools, Colleges and health settings.

Donate here: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/19355>

Farmers Alliance for Restoration (FAR) is an approved



international project of the Permaculture Association (Britain, registered charity no. 1116699). FAR was founded by Sheila's younger brother, Hugh Kelly.

FAR empowers farming communities in East Africa to create regenerative farming systems that feed their families and produce a variety of crops to take to market. By working together and cooperating in crop

selection, they can redesign their farms to improve the health of their soil, the quality of their water, and the biodiversity that so much life depends on.

Donate here: <https://www.farmers-alliance.org/donate>

Thank you

We would like to thank the Worth Abbey Monastic Community for their welcome, Dominic Witchalls, grandson, for photography and technical support, all of the readers and tribute givers, the choir and musicians, particularly Liz Limb and Giles Kennedy, and everyone else who has contributed to today's celebration.

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Celtic Alleluia, by Christopher Walker and Fintan O'Carroll

The Lord's My Shepherd, Traditional tune, text by Francis Rous (1579-1659) from Psalm 23

Holy, Holy, Holy, by Philip Gaisford OSB

Our Father, by Philip Gaisford OSB (Mass of St Brellade)

Lamb of God, by Philip Gaisford OSB (Mass of St Brellade)

The Cloud's Veil, by Liam Lawton

Jerusalem, by Hubert Parry

Irish Blessing, by Lizzy Ann Dunworth

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