

A Service of Celebration and
Thanksgiving for the Life
of
Shirley Eveline Doyle

11th October 1929 - 13th March 2026



Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 11.30am
The Gordon Chapel
Service conducted by Reverend Judith Ellis



Entrance Music

Edelweiss

Julie Andrews

Welcome & Opening Prayer

By Reverend Judith Ellis

Hymn

Lord of all Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.



Tributes

My Sister

*Written by Doreen
(Shirley's Sister)*

Read by Steve, Shirley's son

Mum

Written & read by Steve

"My Mothers Garden"

*Poem chosen by Siobhan
(Shirley's daughter)*

Read by Saoirse, Shirley's granddaughter

Grandma

*Written by Aloisa, Michael, Saoirse, Kaelan and Jack
(Shirley's Grandchildren)*

Read by Saoirse & Kaelan

Quiet Reflection

Amazing Grace
Charlotte Church

Reading

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever

Reflection

Prayers Of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
Climb Every Mountain

Reading

Author Anon

Read by Sarah

(Shirley's daughter-in-law)

Committal Prayers & Blessing

Exit Music

We'll Meet Again

Dame Vera Lynn



Biography

Shirley was born in 1929 in Edgware, North London.

She grew up with her younger sister Doreen during the years of the Second World War. Like many of her generation, she was a war child, and it shaped her outlook on life—including, perhaps, her lifelong love of sugar, which she never stinted on in our home.

After London was blitzed, the North London girls were evacuated to family in Warwick for their safety. Doreen remembers how, at school there, they would practise evacuations by climbing over a brick wall and scattering along the banks of the River Avon. When Birmingham later came under heavy bombing, their mother promptly arrived and brought them home to London.

They both attended Copthall County Grammar School, a place known for its academic excellence, and they loved their time there. Shirley was particularly talented at Maths—a gift that would later benefit her children greatly.

After leaving school, Shirley trained as a shorthand typist and began working in the City. She would travel on the London Underground each day, often accompanied by her dachshund, who even had its own season ticket!

On her walk to work, she would pass a building site where she was frequently greeted with wolf whistles. One day, one of the workmen stepped forward, introduced himself, and asked her out. That man, Bill, would go on to become her husband. She knew he was a keeper when, after only a few dates, he turned up at Victoria Station to see her off as she left for France to visit her pen pal, Marie-Thérèse.

Bill was from Ireland, and through him, Shirley came to love the country and his large Irish family. They married in December 1951 and settled in Harrow, North London. Shirley was sociable and enjoyed dancing and trips to the cinema, but she was happiest at home with her son and daughter, her dachshund, Greta, and her budgerigar, Paddy..

Later, after her sister emigrated to Australia, Shirley and Bill moved to Hertfordshire, where they ran a general store. As children, we remember how incredibly hard they worked and the long hours they kept. Despite this, family was always at the heart of everything for Shirley. She was always there for us—especially when it came to helping with Maths homework.

In retirement, they finally had more time to travel, visiting Australia to spend time with family, as well as maintaining close friendships in France that became like an extension of our own family.

Sadly, Bill died far too soon. But Shirley showed her strength and resilience by reinventing herself. She took computer courses, joined arts and crafts groups, and created beautiful embroidery and Christmas decorations—pieces that will be treasured and remembered by the family every year.

In 2009 Shirley moved to West Sussex to be closer to her son and grandchildren. Once again, she immersed herself in her community, making many new friends through the Wednesday Club, the Friendship Group, and the Baptist Church, where she found both fellowship and faith. She became a regular volunteer at West Chiltington Primary School, where she shared her creativity, mainly in the form of teaching knitting to the pupils. She enjoyed her time at Kensington Close and valued the friendships she made there, especially neighbours, Shirлие and Mary, who were such a support to her.

During her time in Sussex, Shirley also enjoyed going on plenty of coach holidays, both with her local friends and also with her sister Doreen when she visited her.

Shirley lived a long life, rich in family, friendship, and quiet joys. She delighted in keeping up with her great-grandchildren, watching their antics on video through the wonder of WhatsApp.

My enduring memory of her is her sense of humour, her warmth, and her gift for making life feel comforting and safe. She was, at her heart, a truly loving person—and that love will stay with us always.

The family warmly invite you to join them for refreshments after the service in the catering suite.



GuildCare♥



Donations in memory of Shirley can be made via
shirleydoyle.muchloved.com
or by sending a cheque, payable to
Guild Care

(This will be to support Haviland House Day Centre)

c/o Ian Hart Funeral Service Ltd.
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