

## Memorial Service and Reception for my Mum

Sunday, 07 October 2007

Well, Saturday 6th October was the day.

We had the memorial service in the beautiful little church in Forest Green where my brother Andy and Jane were married a quarter of a century ago. The Dean of Guildford conducted the service, all three of us brothers spoke (Jamie flew in from California) as well as loving and emotional tributes from some of her friends. An amazing mixture of people came - and every one was full of love and friendship.

Then onto the Parrot Inn (which Gary Brooker of Procul Harum once owned) and they really did us proud - delicious food and a lovely room. The new owners have turned it into one of the nicest pubs in Britain.

They organised a big screen so we could show a DVD I'd made with my Mum a few months ago, with her talking about some of the people and things she'd loved in her life - very moving.

Editing that over the past weeks has been wonderful for me. I've felt she was still here with me, hidden in my Macbook Pro.

So many friends and relations from the past came. I was delighted to see Gerald Seymour, who I genuinely would put in the list of the best novelists in Britain today alongside John Le Carre and Ian McEwan.

He used to do our gardening for my Mum when he was at school (many years ago!).

We stayed all afternoon, enjoying the gourmet spread, sipping drinks, tea and coffee.

Everyone agreed, from the response since, it was a beautiful and joyful occasion, and my Mum would have been delighted by the undiluted love and affection felt and expressed for her.

Many thanks to all who attended and contributed.