

Tribute

My Mum, Patsy, she loved a party, she would have loved to have all you, her family and friends gathered together. I can picture her chatting animatedly always interested in people's lives, keen to share in their happiness or pain and wanting to help them. For me she always lit up a room and I could always rely on her to help me be more positive. In any party she just would have preferred not to be the centre of attention!

What can I tell you about her?

She was a beautiful woman, recently Dad, Katharine, Rachel and I have been looking at old family photos and it reminded me what a beautiful woman she was. She was breathtaking.

Elegant, youthful and stylish she never looked her age and was usually the best dressed woman in the room.
That's on the outside ..

Mum was beautiful on the inside too

She had such a heart for people both those she knew and those she didn't know all over the world. She was always interested in people's lives and what they were experiencing. *It showed when visiting the women working in Clacuttas red light district of India for her work as a Trustee for Jubilee Action. It also showed in the prison visiting work she undertook visiting prisoners in Wandsworth prison. Or in her volunteering for Surestart where she visited families as a support, once a week*

She wasn't sentimental she was very realistic and had a subtle sense of humour which came to the fore at moments. Most recently when Pauline Mum's consultant was telling her that she had only weeks to live. Pauline was overcome as she delivered the news and was in floods of tears. Mum laid a hand on her arm and said "don't worry Pauline its not the end of the world!"

From the outside Mum seemed to have it all but underneath that calm exterior she had her fair share of life's struggles. She overcame the early obstacles of her upbringing but suffered periodically throughout her life with bouts of depression, yet she never complained and used her experience to help others who were suffering too.

Youthful in attitude and Mum had a heart for young people she devoted a lot of time to running or helping out at youth clubs *in Richmond and*

Rachel says Mum was simply her best friend, for me Mum was my litmus test and sounding board

Now she has gone to be with Jesus and occupy her room in our fathers house. This might not be strictly scriptural but I like to think of it like this...

Her room will be beautiful- simple yet elegant accessorised with touches of red, and plenty of candles in the interior design. There will be plenty of books and crosswords around (reading was one of her great loves)

The room will be filled with the friends and family who have gone before, having a party welcoming her - probably all drinking lots of tea!

Mum we will miss you, selfishly we think you've gone too soon but I echo what Alicia wrote in her last letter to you "I love you Grandma and I will see you againsometime".