

## Les Oliver 1925 - 2020.



Husband to Betty and Father to Melanie, Mark & Ruth. Grandfather & Great Grandfather.

Les was born in Macclesfield, Cheshire and was brought up in West Didsbury Manchester, moving to Kidlington in December 1965, via Malmesbury Wiltshire.

The family lived in Almond Avenue until 2005, when Les & Betty decided to move closer to daughter Melanie in Abingdon.

He was a Senior Lecturer in Electrical Engineering at Oxford College of Further Education, when in Cowley Road, until retiring in 1986.

He was a Methodist lay preacher, taking services throughout Oxfordshire, along with being a committed member of Kidlington Methodist Church. He was a supporter of the Kidlington Labour Party, a member of Kidlington Peace Group, an official speaker on Brunel's famous ship the SS Great Britain and gave presentations to several local groups. For many years he edited the magazine Kidlington Calendar.

He was a great campaigner for those being persecuted in foreign countries, when Campsfield House was being used as an asylum centre he regularly visited those being held. His efforts, without doubt, not only lifted spirits but helped in preventing some being returned to their countries to face certain death.

He gained a BA Hons degree from the Open University, in the early 70's, one of the very first to be issued. In retirement he regularly helped children with their reading at West Kidlington CP School, while on several occasions being Father Christmas. He often went along to Gosford Hill Adult Training Centre, helping adults with reading and writing difficulties. For several years he carried out repairs to electrical appliances at Oxfam's charity shop in Summertown.

He was an avid Manchester City fan, as a youngster he would go with his father to most of their home games. He had a terrific sense of humour and loved comedy such as The Goon Show, Steptoe & Son, Morecambe & Wise and Dads Army. Despite in his later years suffering with Alzheimer's disease he never lost his sharp wit, always enjoying a good laugh.

His funeral will be a small private family affair, due to Covid restrictions. Should anyone wish to make a donation in his memory please forward to Alzheimer's UK.

William Mark Oliver

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