



# PETER MILLER

## TRIBUTES

## Philip Watson

I was aware of Peter Miller in the 1960s when we attended Windsor Hall (now Fairfield) for Covenanters. This was the church get-together for the young teenagers.

The group met on a Sunday morning and once a month we were invited out for tea, to families around the church.

Peter came back to the church a number of years ago and I have clearly witnessed the wonderful testimony he has been to the Lord and to so many.

He and I bantered our jokes back and forth and we all thoroughly enjoyed his sharp wit and great sense of humour.

More than that, Peter was a gentle man. He was an inch or two taller than me but the true figure of a 'Gentle Giant'. He went out of his way so often to bless others.

His time was wonderfully shared among so many, not just in his personal life but his business life too. From what I understand, his customers loved him and my guess is that they must have had over-clean carpets because he visited them so often. He always gave them a good listening ear, he drank their tea and by his own admittance, enjoyed the odd cake or two.

He was truly interested in people

and from the questions he often asked he was clearly reflecting the love and compassion of Jesus.

Whether it was Holiday Club / House Group / setting out the Sunday chairs / the 'comeTogether' group / greeting those attending Fairfield / the lifts home and to Church when needs arose / and more, he delighted in serving his Lord.

How wonderful the way he and Pat ran their business together, both with different gifts, 'but what a team'. In recent years it was wonderful to see the time and energy and training he gave to David.

He was a very special man and I thank God for all he has brought to my life and to so many.

He will be greatly missed and I feel sure for all of us, we will thank God for so very many special and indeed precious memories.

## Chris Reveley

Peter was a wonderful man and an amazing character - so full of life and so caring for others. He was one of the first people I got to know at Fairfield when we came 11 years ago and I can remember his Baptism service too (with Barry & Sherly). We reminisced together about each being in Jucos and Covenanters

(Boys' Christian Youth Groups), me in Rayners Lane and Peter at Fairfield (when it was called Windsor Hall). It was great to hear his testimony of how that background had planted a seed in his life that was dormant for many years and then came to full bloom just over a decade ago.

Peter had a larger-than-life personality and he was great in general banter and chat, with all his jokes, as well as when serving people through Sunday service welcome team or comeTogether or at Philadelphia men's meetings. He loved to say something shocking to watch the reaction but he was deeply kind and this was always done with affection and gentleness. Peter, more than most people I have met, had integrated his faith and his job so that he would talk to his clients about what they believed and, when appropriate (I assume!), share something of his faith in Jesus with them. He would often consult me about questions that had come up, or the beliefs of those from different faiths, both because he was genuinely interested and because he wanted to know better how to chat with them. And he clearly consulted God even more than me as he talked his prayer life out day by day - his was a real relationship with Jesus.

Through Peter I got to know Pat and David and Sarah because Peter's life was truly integrated and so he wanted everyone to get to know everyone else he knew and to know his God too. Peter has been a colourful part of Fairfield life all the time I have been here. I shall truly miss him until we meet again.

## Alastair & Rosemary Allcock

It was always good to have his friendly greeting when he was one of the welcomers on Sunday morning. He always had a humorous angle on life, without it in any way detracting from his serious Christian faith. Alastair remembers him discussing how he had come to see the need for a personal and saving relationship with Christ. It was so good to hear.

We have good memories of Peter sitting on our carpet, patiently and skilfully removing marks. We also remember his last visit, to clean both the carpet and the sofas, when we observed his calm and thorough training of David. We will miss him and his cheerful, lively manner.

## Maria Zulu

Rest in peace Peter. He was like a dad to me. I will miss him dearly.

## Rosemary-Anne & Brian Ladd

What can I say - we're so very saddened and so very sorry. Peter was such a lovely man and he will leave a hole in our church.

He had a mischievous sense of humour: on the first occasion when he had so generously offered to look after our dogs for us while we went on holiday, I will never forget him saying he had entered them into a dog-fight - for a split second I believed him!!

I'm glad he died peacefully: God was there with him - not just the nurse.

### Revelation 21:4

**And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

## Linda Burrows

Peter was a lovely kind man and such a tease. He always made people feel good and will be sorely missed at Fairfield. Our comfort is in knowing that he is now with his Lord. My heart goes out to you, his family, and my prayers are with you as you grieve this terrible loss.

## Beverley White

Peter was a person who could always put a smile on your face. I was on the door at Fairfield just before lockdown, welcoming with him, and he made a joke with everyone not to touch each other. He will be missed for his kindness and interest in everyone he talked with. Perhaps even now he is cleaning the carpets in Heaven.

## Howard White

Like everyone else, I have such fond memories of Peter, always with a cheerful smile and so quick with a joke to lift your spirits.

I particularly remember the time I spent with him in 2018, when I chatted with him about his early times with the church and life growing up in Northwood Hills when he met Pat, so we could use this in our celebration of the 70th anniversary of the church. I remember how proud he was when Jeffery went through his archives and found a photograph of the boy's group in the 1950s and how Peter recognised some of the boys, including his brother, I think, and he recalled their activities, particularly when groups were invited round to the posh houses of the leaders for Sunday tea.

## Rachie Ross

Dear wonderful Peter, I cannot take it in that you have died so I am writing this to you, and in truth you don't feel far away. We have just clapped the NHS and I cry with gratitude for those that are working so hard and I cry with gratitude for those that looked after you. Your death has hit us all so hard, what a shock.

Spring is outside the window and the blossom is out, bees are buzzing and I am planting seeds, just like you loved to do. My front garden always amused you, that I grew veg out there and I've named it after you, with a little plaque - In loving memory of Peter. Many years ago, you told me how to shred cereal packets into my compost heap to make better mulch and I have done that ever since; today I laid some on the veg beds ready for my runners. We shared a love of gardens and seeds and all things being in line with nature's benefit. I feel you close when I garden. I want to tell you that Just Living will never be the same without you sitting on our sofa, asking for a left-handed mug and that 'weird milk'. You have been at almost every meeting over the past 5 years and we have benefited from your wisdom and political opinions. You were a loving, godly man, who cared so deeply

about the planet and nature and climate change, and what will we do without your interest, support and total commitment to sustainability? We have lost a true earth protector, a truly lovely and thoroughly decent man. How to bear it, I do not know...

Some people light up a room Peter and that was you. You had a way of being gentle and challenging, loving but also deeply serious and your kindness was immense. Your love of your family and your job was so inspiring; I'm so glad you brought David to Fairfield all those years ago and showed him God's love. And when you wore matching jumpers and were on Welcome together at church, what joy! You see, that's what you did so well, you sowed Joy, Laughter, Love and Light and even when you cleaned our front room carpet, the jokes and banter were all part of the deal. Thank you so much for bringing us such joy. And, personally I want to thank you for always encouraging me with sermons, climate activism, all sorts of things. And thank you for being open minded, open hearted and such a man of God. You have been a dear friend and I look forward to the day when we meet, over a left-handed cup of tea, with that 'weird milk' with Jesus. And I love the reminder that we are not buried but rather

planted, back into God's garden, from where we came. I think you would like that thought too.

All my love Rachie xx

### **Gill & Mark Newham**

We didn't know Peter Miller very well, but on the occasions he spoke to us, we sensed that he was a lovely, godly man who was interested in what God was doing everywhere. We trust that Pat and the family know God's comfort as they walk through this time of grief and loss.

### **Michelle and Jonathan Barnes**

Peter was such a joyful, fun-loving man, always having a joke and making us laugh, but he was also extremely thoughtful and always so willing to serve others.

Peter had a deep sense of both social and climate justice. He was such a blessing to Fairfield's 'Just Living' group, of which he was a committed member. His love of all God's creation was evident in all he said and did and we valued his thoughts and voice so much in all of our meetings.

Peter was also an integral part of the 'Come Together' team (Fairfield's services for adults with learning difficulties and their carers) and he really looked forward to the events. His

affection for the members was evident through the warmth he always showed them. As well as meeting-and-greeting and helping with the afternoon tea preparation, Peter had been encouraged to give some of the talks. He delighted and inspired everyone with stories from his carpet-cleaning business, recounting how he shared his Christian faith with his customers, and of how God blessed him through the gift of growing vegetables and flowers.

We thank God for the sunshine Peter brought to our lives and we will miss him sorely.

### **Janet Heppell**

I remember the lovely relationship between Peter and his grandson when they worked together in my house. And I remember Peter's kindness, friendliness and strong Christian witness at Come Together. Sadly missed.

### **Alistair & Senga Hornal**

We first met Peter when he came to clean our carpets - always a joy to talk to him! From that conversation he starting coming to church at Fairfield, asking questions, finding faith. Reading through Mark's Gospel together (provoking more questions) led Peter to baptism as a sign of his

commitment to the Lord Jesus. His new life with Jesus had begun - and goes on...

### **Andy Ross**

Peter, you were taken too early. There were many more chats to be had and jokes to be shared. You leave a big hole in your different communities - a hole of gentle, warm mischievousness, a love of chat and an ear ready to listen. Your appreciation of humble things and lack of desire to chase after many of the trappings of modern life were always encouraging to me. You were a man happy with family, with growing things and with small quirky touches which made life that little bit more entertaining and colourful for the rest of us. The world of left-handed mugs has lost a true champion and we have lost a dear friend.

### **Tim Goodall**

It is with a great smile on my face that I remember Peter. His cheeky humour and wonderful side comments spoke of a deeply joyful character, settled in his faith in Jesus, wonderfully trusting, though refusing to avoid some of the hard realities of this life, and the questions that they bring up. It was a joy to know Peter, and then get to know Pat, especially at Christianity Explored some years

ago. He was a loving, generous, kind hearted man. It is with deep sadness, but with profound hope, that I learned of Peter's death - knowing as he did his Saviour Jesus, I've no doubt of his coming resurrection to new life when Jesus returns. And the prospect of seeing that wonderful smile again forces a smile to my face through the tears of loss. With love to Pat, David & the rest of the family.

### **Jeffery & Lise Wilson**

Peter, and his brother Terry, were members of the Covenanter Group at Windsor Hall (NHEC/ Fairfield), which David Rennie and I used to lead 60 years ago, in the old hut! Sadly Terry died last year, and now at Peter's death I feel we have lost the last contact with the members of Northwood Hills Covies.

Peter never changed! He always had a story to tell or a joke to share, with the usual twinkle in his eye, and it is hard to imagine life at Fairfield without his bubbly personality around to encourage and joke with everyone. We all remember his warm greeting at the front door through recent months. It is wonderful that he came back to the Church after a number of years, and now at his passing we continue to pray for Pat and all her family. Together we



thank God for knowing Peter. He will be greatly missed by us all.

### **Neville & Chris Pearson**

Peter was a gentle giant! He was a quick thinker with a very dry sense of humour. He often made us laugh with outrageous comments, but then we would see the twinkle in his eye and knew we were being teased. Peter was easy to talk to and shared similar viewpoints to us.

He was always willing to help and thought the best of everyone. His faith was deep, and he shared it in gentle ways.

I know in his business he often was able to share his love of Jesus whilst generally chatting to people.

He was a great guy and will be missed.

### **Margaret Holland**

Peter was a lovely friend and brother in Christ - a kind and thoughtful person with a great sense of humour. It was always so good to talk with him about the Lord. Peter's thirst for evangelism had grown strong and active over the years and I'm sure there will be many in Heaven (especially among his business 'customers') because of his faithfulness in sharing Christ with them. Ever cheerful and caring, he was the

kind of person who was always there for others and ready to help. We shall all miss him so much - and his mischievous sense of humour!

### **Paul Carey**

Peter was a member of our house group and time and again looked back to his conversion, speaking of the big changes that God brought to his life. He talked frequently about his carpet-cleaning business, which he loved, constantly relating the conversations he'd had with each customer. He had real compassion for each and every one, sharing his faith... to the point where we sometimes wondered if carpets ever actually got cleaned! Frequently a joker, Peter was also thoughtful, and was always keen to learn more. He would use the house group meetings as an opportunity to find answers to his own questions, making us all think through the reality of our faith as he did so. Peter and I used to share memories of our youth when we were both in (different) Covenanter groups where we learned Bible memory verses.

He loved his garden, his family and his work, and his love for the Lord was unmistakable. We will miss him very much in house group and across the life of the

church, remembering his interest in people as they came through the door, and of course his jumpers and coordinated outfits with David when he was on welcoming duty!

### **Helena Arthur**

Peter was a dear friend to me, I got to know him mostly through the Christianity Explored course and being part of the Just Living house group with him. He always made me laugh with his jokes and satirical take on otherwise serious issues. When he was serving coffee on Sunday he would meet my request for a drink with a "no" and some jokey banter between us until I could finally get my drink! My fondest memory of him was when I was very upset about my son being in hospital and I sent an emotional, ranting message to the Just Living WhatsApp group which was an expression of my pain and the next Sunday he sought me out to talk to me and make sure I was ok. I appreciated that conversation as well as all the others we had about various things; our families, the environment, the housing situation in this country and the class system were some of them. He offered to clean my carpets for free because he knew that money was tight for me which was a very generous gesture but I never took

him up on it because I didn't want to take advantage of him. He was a lovely man and we often prayed together about the things that concerned us. I appreciated his friendship, his warmth, his sense of humour and his down-to-earth good nature. I will miss him and look forward to seeing him again one day in heaven when I die as well. Peter was an extraordinary man and he will be missed.

### **Wendy Holdsworth**

A 'gentle-man', with a lovely sense of humour. Who can forget the Christmas jumpers? One of life's cheerer uppers, he will be greatly missed.

### **Tony Lane**

Peter was a lovely man in many ways, but one way may not be so well known. He was very generous. When Maggie collected for NHRA membership most people either gave nothing or else gave the recommended sum. Peter, by contrast, always gave much more. In 2011, Tony took part in the LST sponsored attempt at the Three Peaks Challenge (which eventually came to be known as the One Peak Challenge!). A number of folk were very generous in their support, but Peter stood out as especially generous.

### **Eva, Eli & Netta Ross**

Peter was always really funny, asked how we were doing, warm and easy to get to know. He was almost always at Just Living, and his comments on the JL WhatsApp were always priceless. We will miss him.

### **Lee Wilson**

Peter, We really miss you.

Always the joker, I would never really be sure if he was being serious or not, but I didn't care as he was always so lovely with it.

He inspired me with his humble, kind-hearted ways and the way he was so generous with his time and his smiles.

I also loved that he cared so deeply about God's earth and how he was so keen to live and garden and work sustainably.

Thank you Peter for all the love and the light that you brought to peoples' lives.

### **Martin Wilson**

Peter will be missed by many but not forgotten. He was the sort of person that you will always remember. His wicked sense of humour was truly a divine gift, bringing light and laughter into our lives. But he was also a caring, principled man. When he asked how I was, or inquired about my

family, I could tell he was genuinely interested, he wasn't just making conversation. He loved justice, caring for God's world and his people. He often sent hilarious texts to our Just Living group using his incisive humour to highlight injustice in the manner of a great satirist.

He also loved and trusted God and was unashamed to make that obvious. He was a very special man.

### **Veronica Gordon**

Your life was such a blessing to us all. Memories of you are a real treasure. Your love is beyond all words, and we surely will miss you, and your jokes! May your soul rest in peace.

### **Derek Peters**

If I were asked to sum up Peter Miller in three words, I would suggest "a lovely man".

Peter was a delightfully approachable character, who loved to share conversation with anyone who would engage with him. It is hard to imagine anyone failing to warm to his kindly nature. He was always interested in what other people felt and happy to talk at length about what interested them. He was happiest of all, though, to share about his love for the Lord Jesus

Christ, whom he had come to fully know quite late in his life. Although he had heard about Him in his childhood, attending the church we now know as Fairfield, his faith was crystallised over the last few years. He became a regular attender at the church, and contributed in numerous ways, always with a smile and words of encouragement. He is deeply missed by the congregation, and when the lockdown ends it will amplify our sadness to know that he is no longer amongst us. He was a greatly loved member of the small housegroup which meets fortnightly in the church building, and his anecdotes and other contributions will be sorely missed there.

He was also characterised in my mind by four other things.

- He was a highly skilled professional cleaner of carpets and fabrics, and though naturally modest, he was meticulous about maintaining high standards in the work he did, making sure he kept his knowledge and equipment up to date.
- Gardening was a passion for him. Although he was always keener than I, we occasionally shared plants between us whenever either of us had excess.

- He loved wildlife, and encouraged most visitors to his garden, where he put food out for them. He and I shared a love for birds, and discussed them frequently, but I didn't subscribe to his fondness for grey squirrels!
- He had a delightful, jokey sense of humour. If one offered him a cup of tea, he always asked for it to be served in a 'left-handed' mug, because he was left-handed. This was always expressed in such earnest tones, that the first time one heard it one could be fooled into taking him seriously!

Lastly, Peter was characterised by his love for his family, and he readily acknowledged his dependence upon his beloved wife Pat. He was very generous by nature, and susceptible to being taken advantage of. The fact that Pat took charge of the invoicing was vital to their business. His quotes for the work he did were always on the reasonable side for the quality he produced, but any hard luck story might tempt him to give an unwarranted discount.

What a lovely man. Peter, I miss you but am glad you are now safe in the care of the Lord Jesus Christ you loved so dearly.