

Sandy's Story



Sandy was born in Akron Ohio USA on 25th July 1960 to Thomas and Martha Wolford. She was the first of six children, with sisters Kathy, Debbie, and Linda; and brothers Tom and Dan.

Sandy is survived by her mom, and sisters Kathy and Linda who live in the USA, and her husband Jim and son Samuel in the UK. Also by her sister in law Alice and brother in law Rob in the UK. And by many nieces and nephews and other family members in America who she loved dearly and has photos all over the house to remind her of them, being so far away.



Sandy put her faith in Christ as her Saviour on September 5, 1965, was baptised on October 24, 1965, and from that age of 5 wanted to be a missionary to tell others about Jesus.

Later at the age of 12, Sandy went on her own to Brazil to visit a missionary family, an adventure that further confirmed her calling.

Sandy moved to Maine, USA with her family in 1972. Sandy taught children's clubs in the church in Lincoln that her family served in. One of those children, Jen, now writes:

"As a child, she was one of the big girls to look up to in our close-knit church family. She hung around my big brother, and I didn't know why, but I liked to sit in her lap during Bible study at our house. I don't remember her ever pushing me aside because she had better things to do and she used to laugh and try to teach me the proper way to say the name of the song I wanted them to sing. "

Still hearing God's call to be a missionary, Sandy studied at Heritage Bible Institute in Springfield Mass. to be prepared. Sandy believed the Lord was wanting her to come to England, and visited many churches to try to raise the finances needed.

But God had a different way to bring her to serve Him in England - through marriage to Jim Snowden from England on August 1st 1987. So it was that Sandy Wolford moved to England as Sandy Snowden to serve the Lord together with Jim here in Bracknell.



God blessed Sandy and Jim with a dear son, Samuel, in March 1989. Her sewing friends remember she often spoke so proudly of him to them.

Since her arrival in Bracknell 33 years ago, Sandy has served the Lord in many ways as a member of Community Baptist Church. She has taught Sunday school, bible clubs, ladies bible studies, puppet clubs, music, and given of herself to us in many ways.



Sandy was respected as a kind and thoughtful person by her neighbours and others in the local community. Sandy was a learning support assistant for several years for children at the Pines junior and infant school. Sandy began using her sewing skills while working at the school and the church to create ethnic and storybook costumes for the children, and to make puppets.

Sandy's talent for sewing developed over the years into textile and wearable art. Through the encouragement of her friend Gabrielle, she passed a City and Guilds course in Fashion and Dress Making at Hemel Hempstead, and taught at New Directions in Reading for several years.



Sandy particularly enjoyed meeting with others interested in sewing, and along with Gabrielle, Jane, Merete, and Jo, and others, was an enthusiastic founding member of the "Offcuts" and "Thames Valley Contemporary Textiles" groups that now regularly meet here in Bracknell.

Some of Sandy's sewing friends will share more about her love for sewing in their tributes.

Many of the textile artworks Sandy created were designed to draw people's attention to those unfairly treated, and those oppressed and persecuted in the world. One of her recent pieces involved her sewing 24000 beads onto a canvas, 80 a day for 300 days; one bead for each Christian that suffered persecution in India last year.

Sandy was always in prayer for persecuted Christians around the world, praying every day with love for those persecuted for their faith in Christ.



Jim and Sam have received many messages in the last few days speaking of Sandy's kind and caring character. In recent years she was often in severe pain and had various health issues. Somehow she still showed a sweetness of character that causes us to so fondly remember her.

At the beginning of her Bible, Sandy wrote three prayers that help us to understand how she could be this way despite her health problems:

1. "I pray that your life will be as wonderful as it was in God's mind when He created you - oh this for my family and friends"

Sandy's prayer was that each person she knew would fully enjoy what God wanted them to be.

2. "Live so that when people get to know you, they will want to know Christ - please I want this"

Sandy's prayer was that her life would help each person who knew her to want to come to know about her Saviour.

3. "My prayer is that I will be fruitful and useful in whatsoever state I am in. I want to be a blessing even when I am hurting and in pain ... when I am unable"

Sandy's prayer was that God would work through her to be a blessing to others despite her own weaknesses.

Sandy knew she was not perfect. But she trusted that God forgave and accepted her through faith in Christ. And God answered her prayers to bless others through her.

Sandy wrote Psalm 28:7 in her Bible after those three prayers:

*The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
And with my song I will praise Him.*

The secret of Sandy's thoughtfulness and kindness was that God was her strength and shield and that He helped her.



Sandy passed into God's loving presence after a short illness in Frimley Hospital on August 4.

We are all so sad that God has called Sandy home from us.

But we are glad for her being in a far better place. Here are some words from her friend Jen again that may reflect some of our feelings.

*"We don't understand how this could be her time to go home.
Right now we see as through a glass darkly, but then face to face.
But what joy she is experiencing now. Free from pain.
And so we sorrow, but not like those who have no hope."*

We thank God that He has given us the privilege to know Sandy as our precious friend, daughter, sister, mum, and wife.

Those of us who also know her Saviour Jesus Christ look forward to the day when we are reunited together with her in God's presence for ever.

Ramshackle: Distancing

"Though we are in lock-down, we have still been able to communicate through technology... a virtual heartbeat across the distance expressing love to those with whom we cannot physically connect."

