

David Scott, my Parish Priest

Elizabeth Baron

David Scott was Rector of St Lawrence and St Swithun upon Kingsgate in Winchester from 1991-2010. I was a member of his parish and his Churchwarden for the last seven years of his ministry with us. He brought to the parish a unique ministry. He expected, and achieved, silence from the congregation before a service which helped the worship so much. His preaching and teaching were profound, honest and humble, and he encouraged the laity to rally round and help and support him which we readily did. He cared deeply about people and was an excellent pastoral priest, greatly respected and loved by his parishioners who recognised what a special poet priest, and yet vulnerable person he was.

David led us on many parish pilgrimages — memories come to mind of lying in a field at sunrise to hear the dawn chorus and walking along a beach on Lindisfarne to find a special pebble — with Miggy organising all the practical things. Indeed one cannot think of David without his wife Miggy. They were a loving, strong unit and without her he would never have been able to achieve all he did.

He had a photograph in his study of Thomas Merton and delighted in the Merton Society. He knew much about his poetry and along with Lancelot Andrewes, spoke of them both as friends. He brought his own poetry and that of others into Evensong in a wonderful way, and he led the Winchester Diocesan School of Spirituality where all his skills and his poetry were valued and much appreciated.

David was a holy man; I always thought he had one foot in heaven and one foot on earth as did some other people who knew him. He lived his faith in a quiet, unassuming way. His humility, integrity and honesty in what he taught, said and did had a profound effect on many people.

His funeral was a remarkable tribute to a holy man, beginning with sung Compline, a service that was special to him, the night before the main service. We who knew him feel we were very privileged and blessed that he shared his life with us over nearly twenty years.

Elizabeth Baron is a retired nurse who worked in the NHS for 40 years.