



Bryan and Jane



Jane, Tudor and Bryan



Georgia and Jane



Early days

Bryan George Bishop – it's a family affair

IN the heart of our community lives a man whose life has been dedicated to service and compassion. Bryan George Bishop, born in 1937. A dedicated family man using his compassion, empathy and understanding to help others through some of the worst moments of their lives.

Bryan's journey began as he embarked on a five-year apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery in 1952 under Cecil Smith of Maggs & Son Ltd. This period of his life saw him travelling to Osmond Timber Yard in Temple Cloud, procuring materials, such as elm and oak, which he then used to make coffins.

Maggs & Son Ltd, were known not only as builders but as Funeral Directors, providing the backdrop for Bryan's transformative years.

When Mr Smith injured his leg and back, the opportunity then arose for Bryan to orchestrate his first funeral for his late uncle, Arthur Bishop, from Cheddar, at St Laurence Church, Priddy. This defining moment heralded the beginning of Bryan's journey into the world of Funeral Directing.

Upon the retirement of local man, Sylvester Cook, Bryan assumed the mantle of his Funeral Directing business, founding Bryan G. Bishop Funeral Service in 1979. He also traded as a general builder, at Springhill Farm House, Hallatrow Road, Paulton. This establishment nestled within a family home, complete with a purpose-built Chapel of Rest.

Beyond his professional commitments, Bryan immersed himself in various community endeavours. From involvement with The Lions, to delivering inspirational speeches and engaging with local organisations, such as local hospitals, police headquarters and more, his presence resonated deeply within the community.

Reflecting on his life's work, Bryan attributes his success to the unwavering support of his beloved Wife, Grace. Together, they navigated through shifting societal norms, witnessing transformation in funeral practices from traditional burials to cremations and now direct cremations and non-denominational services with celebrants.

Bryan comments on how when the family relocated to Paulton, they saw unwavering support from the Bevan family, emblematic of the communal spirit that defines the village of Paulton. Bryan's clients expanded beyond geographical boundaries, extending his services to distant locals, including London, Cornwall and Wales, a testament to the trust he garnered.

Over the years many local men and women



Jane, Bryan, Grace, Tudor and Georgia

have assisted Bryan with callouts, bearing, administration and hygienic care including many members of the family - daughters, sons-in-law, nephews and grandchildren. Without the supporting roles of his team, he would not have been able to deliver his unlimited care to others.

As the baton passed to the second and third generations, Tudor and Jane Bishop (son and daughter-in-law) and Georgia Bishop (granddaughter), Bryan stands proud, witnessing the continuation of his legacy. Their dedication mirrors his own, ensuring that the values of compassion and integrity remain at the forefront.

Tudor and Jane bought the company in 2001, Bryan continues to work with them as a consultant, guiding, nurturing and supporting them.

Tudor and Jane's initiative in relocating to Farrington Road, further exemplifies the family's commitment to serving the community. Through repurposing the derelict Burnett Stores, they breathe new life into a space laden with history.

Bryan's tenure as a Funeral Director has been rife with poignant tales and profound encounters. Yet, bound by the sanctity of confidentiality, many stories remain untold, safeguarded within the confines of his memories.

May his legacy continue for many more years with Georgia, his granddaughter, joining the team. The next generation of Funeral Directors.

Who knows what changes will arise in the coming years, but Bryan G. Bishop Funeral Service will continue in the same vein, showing empathy, compassion, commitment and understanding.

BRYAN G. BISHOP

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 Bryan G. Bishop Independent Funeral Directors
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