

Celebrating The Life Of  
*Paul Lee Husbands*



11/04/1980 - 11/04/2017

Lawnswood Crematorium

17/05/17

1:00 pm

Celebrant: Jane Hawksworth

## **Processional Music – Nat king Cole – Unforgettable**

We are gathered here today, still reeling from the tragic death of Paul Lee Husbands; we are shocked, still scared and angered at the unfairness and senselessness that took Paul from us. We seek to make sense of this, to understand the reason why it happened – well meaning people will say it's all part of a bigger plan and that this was just Paul's time to go and that he is in better place – But we still cry because we do not understand this bigger plan, and even though we think of Paul being in a better place, but that does not stop us wanting him back here with us.

Unfortunately, there are no easy answers, and as difficult and painful as it is, we must accept that Paul is gone. As a family, as friends, as a community, we express our sadness, we acknowledge our loss and acknowledge the great importance of Paul's life

And no, there are no answers, but there are many questions, and many of us have asked ourselves questions, like, could I have done more, what if I'd done this, endless questions – the truth is that no-one could have done more – Paul made his own decisions and chose his own path – and now we owe it to ourselves and Paul to look at the bigger picture and to celebrate all that was wonderful about his life, the love and laughter that you shared and the wonderful memories that you all treasure of the kind, gentle soul that was Paul.

Paul was born on the 11th April 1980 to Sandra and Alan Fitzgerald Husbands, Paul's father Alan had come to England many years before from Barbados – he adored his young son and he and Paul developed a beautiful loving, relationship, but sadly this was cut short when Alan passed, when Paul was just 6. Paul had an older sister Amanda. Paul was a fun-loving child, always up to mischief with his friends – As Paul grew, he was diagnosed with ADHD, and received special education, being sent to different schools, which disrupted his teenage years – he became rebellious and developed his own unique, headstrong personality and was far wiser than his years. – Paul spent many years living with foster parents – in particular with his foster mum Ann – Paul's time with Ann left a lasting impression in Paul's mind, one he remembered fondly all his life.

In 1995 Paul had been kicking a ball around the streets with his good friend Alex and they met a young girl called Rosie – Rosie was 15 and just setting out on her life's adventures – she had just been given the keys to her new flat, and was moving in that day – Paul and Alex tagged along – There was an instant connection between Rosie & Paul, the one you only feel when you find your soul mate, many believe that when we are born our souls are split between us and another human – and many people spend their whole lives searching for that person that makes them complete – Rosie and Paul found that connection very early on in life – and it was one that would always bring them back together in later life. After their first meeting, Paul had lied to Rosie and told her he was 18, and it wasn't hard to believe, he was very much the gentleman, he was confident, rugged and handsome – after he arrived at the flat that first day he didn't really leave, they spent their days listening to music and just spending time with each other, Paul had no money, no job, but they had wonderful times together – they didn't need anyone else.

Then one day Paul just disappeared, Rosie had no idea where he had gone, it was as if he'd been a ghost – after a while Rosie received a letter from Paul, telling her that he was in fact just 15 and that he had lied and had to return home – he declared his love for her and enclosed a number – eventually over the next two years they became good friends and Rosie found out that she was expecting a baby – Paul didn't cope with responsibility well and Rosie made the brave decision to bring up their daughter Lucia alone – it would be 17 years before Lucia reconnected with her father.

When Paul was 18, he met Sheena and together they went on to have Louis and twins Jacques and Neve – Paul tried hard to support his family and he desperately wanted to be a good dad, he loved his children and wanted them to grow up with the right values, knowing how much he loved them - but Paul was a free-bird and the confines and restrictions of responsibility, made his life a daily struggle - a life full of demons – he and Sheena separating in 18 months after the twins were born.

Paul was his own man – and always true to himself – he was a closed book and his emotions ran deep – on the outside, he was funny, crazy, loud and vocal – he was sarcastic and showy – he loved to dress snazzy, wearing his hats, smart overcoats and polished shoes although he had a huge obsession with trainers and his 90's styling – it had always been his ambition to learn Lindy-hop, something sadly he never got to do, but he would have been excellent at it. After his unsuccessful years at school, Paul became self-taught, he read every day and kept journals and diaries, he was intelligent and loved documentaries and factual programmes – he became very well-read on the second world war, he built impressive models and could re-purpose anything and make it into something beautiful – he was extremely talented and built his own bed out of scaffolding and wood he'd found – Paul was finally sorting out his life, living on his own with his cat Nigel, who he loved dearly.

Again, in 2015, fate brought Rosie and Paul back together – Rosie not only had daughter but also her son Asher and Paul became part of the family - he wanted to right a wrong and after being reunited with his daughter Lucia – Paul, after discussions with Rosie, asked Rosie if he could put his name on Lucia's birth certificate – Lucia changing her name to Husbands-Glanc - it was of great importance to him and something he felt he should have done years ago - Rosie and Paul's relationship blossomed, Paul always kept his flat, it was his escape from normality and of course he needed to look after Nigel the cat – over the years Paul had developed into a kind, loving man, Paul had his own unique ways of showing his love and affections – he was still hopeless, especially with phones - always loosing something, leaving his possessions on a bus, he had no real need for materialistic things – but Paul was at a stage where he wanted to look forward to the future, he talked a lot about reconciling with his son Louis, and he had started seeing the twins – he and Lucia had a typical father daughter relationship and are so alike – Rosie & Paul enjoyed life, spending a lot of time with her sister Sara and partner Danny, enjoying times spent together, he was comfortable, becoming a grumpy old man in his slippers - Paul talked about his children all the time, wanting only the best for them, hoping he could eventually make amends – he was incredibly proud of them, of their achievements and of what they had become.

And it is at this point in our service, that I am going to ask Rebecca to come forward and share with us her poem in honour of Paul.

## **Rebecca Macaig – From Paul with Love**

Today as we gather to say out last farewells to Paul, we realise just how important his life was and that we have all lost someone very special and it's deeply sad - that's why it's so important to hold on to your memories and remember how much laughter and happiness Paul brought to your lives. All of you here, have your own memories of Paul, and as we play our next piece of music, 'Blowing in the Wind by Bob Dylan', I offer you a few moments to reflect on all that has been said and for you to say goodbye in your own way, so that your thoughts, and love can go with Paul on his next journey.

## **Reflection Music – Bob Dylan – Blowing in the Wind**

For many years, Paul has suffered ill health – but you'd never have known, it was a secret he kept close – he knew how much his pain would cause distress to others – on the 10th April, Rosie and Paul celebrated their daughter Lucia's birthday – Paul was very unwell and went home early – the following day – his birthday he was due to come to Rosie's for a small family celebration – sadly he never appeared – Paul was found at home, having passed away on the 11th April 2017.

Paul was a truly unique man, he had the most wonderful outlook and ideas about life and how people should behave towards one another – he was so kind and loved his family, children and friends deeply – Paul had an aura, which touched the lives of the people who met him deeply - he tired so very hard to get his life on track and fought his demons with courage and bravery and he taught you all so much, leaving you all with lasting memories, some beautiful, some not so beautiful – but they are all wonderful, because, no matter how brief, all of those memories and the love that you shared with Paul will last you a lifetime – he can never be truly taken away from you, because you hold him safely, locked inside your heart and Paul has left the most beautiful legacy in his children.

When we are emotionally involved in the lives of other people we will grieve at our loss – Life means grief and love means grief – in time. The only way to avoid grief is not to live or love – In the normal course of grief there will be feelings of pain, of loneliness and feelings of emptiness and insecurity – there will be negative feelings that seem irrational and overwhelming but to facilitate this grief there must be tears – let there be tears, tears are not a sign of weakness but of love. And let there be talk, talk about Paul, talk about his life and his death. When death occurs, we know that those whom we have lost are now at peace. Be thankful for the love and friendship you had with Paul, nothing can change those experiences that you shared with him. The past is secure and cannot be changed by time, circumstances or even death.

## **The Committal**

And so, as we commit Paul's body to be reunited with loved ones and to join the universe from where he came, I would ask you all to please stand

## **Corinthians**

Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy or boast – it is not arrogant nor rude – It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful – it does not keep records of wrongdoings, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things endures all things – Love never fails!

Here in this last act, we commit the body of Paul Lee Husbands to its natural end. His laughter was better than the birds in the morning, his smile turned the edge of the wind – Early he went to bed – too early! Like a flower, he blossoms and then withers; like a shadow he flees and never stays - but we should not grieve for more than a while, because Paul lives on and is all around us and so we let him go, with our love, in sorrow but without fear. So, rest in peace now Paul, may you come to the end of your journey in gentleness and in joy.

May I thank you on behalf of the family for your support her today and may you always carry Paul close to your heart.

Thank you – Rosie and the family have expressed a wish to remain in the chapel, so could I ask you all to come forward and say your own farewells to Paul - a much loved Dad, Partner, Brother & Friend - allowing the family a few moments on their own.

Recessional Music – Goodbye Horses – Q Lazzarus

*Handwritten note:*  
I will always  
love you & Eva  
& Eva always &  
A day later











## From Paul, with love

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.  
Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard his call,  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of the day.  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My Life's been full, I savoured much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free.



### **Celebrating Paul's Life**

Everyone is invited to celebrate Paul's life at the  
Sheepscar Lounge  
(Savile Drive, LS7 3EJ)

### **Acknowledgements**

During this time  
We realize how much our  
Family and friends mean to us  
Your kind expression of sympathy  
Will always be remembered

There are those whose lives death cannot diminish  
Their love radiates forever in the hearts of family and friends  
We felt that love in your thoughtfulness  
Thank you so much.

The family of  
***Paul Husbands***

### **Special Thanks to**

Hugh Gooding Funeral Services  
Jane Hawksworth  
And all those who have helped make today memorable

