

In Memoriam: Dr Edward James Nairn Stupple

(20th February 1976 – 27th October 2025)



An Academic and Personal Reflection on a Life of Thought, Kindness, and Curiosity



Donations to Prostate Cancer UK gratefully received

Abstract

This service offers a commemorative reflection on the life and legacy of Dr Edward James Nairn Stupple. Through selected texts, music, and tributes, we reflect on a life shaped by generosity, wit, and deep curiosity.

Introduction

Today we gather to honour and celebrate the life of Ed — a beloved husband, father, friend, and Associate Professor whose mind was as expansive as his heart was generous. Ed brought thoughtfulness into every space he entered, whether it was a lecture hall, a board game night, or a contemplative walk through Derby’s rain-soaked streets. Though we feel the weight of his absence, we also carry the joy of having known him.

Prelude: Musical Invocation

And Nothing Is Forever by The Cure. The lyrics — “*I know, I know / That my world has grown old / And nothing is forever*” — set a contemplative tone, acknowledging the impermanence of life while inviting attendees into a shared space of remembrance. Its melancholic beauty and existential tone reflect Ed’s deep appreciation for life’s complexity — its beauty and fragility alike.

Opening Remarks

As an academic, Ed taught with rigour and listened with compassion. As a husband, father, family member and friend, he had the ability to make the ordinary feel extraordinary. This service reflects the many facets of Ed’s life — thoughtful, unconventional, and deeply human.

Eulogy

Delivered by Ed’s wife Aimee, offering a personal account of Ed’s life, work, and enduring influence. Aimee’s words bring together the intersections of Ed’s academic pursuits and personal virtues.

Musical Interlude

Sit Down by James, a song emblematic of solidarity and shared vulnerability. The lyrics — “*Those who feel the breath of sadness / Sit down next to me...*” — reinforce the communal nature of mourning and memory. The song’s invitation to sit together in shared humanity reflects Ed’s inclusive spirit and his ability to make others feel seen and valued.

Poetic Tribute

Excerpts from *Love and Space Dust*, delivered by Ed’s children, Megan, Chloe, Teddy, and James. This reading offers a lyrical meditation on memory, love, and legacy, underscoring the indelible mark he left on those closest to him.

Fond Memories

Ed’s brother Duncan shares cherished memories that illuminate Ed’s warmth, humour, and enduring presence.

To be followed by a minute of personal reflection on Ed’s life.

Committal

I Am the Resurrection by The Stone Roses, a song that juxtaposes themes of finality and renewal. The refrain — “*I am the resurrection and I am the life...*” — serves as a fitting coda, echoing the enduring influence of Ed’s life and work. Its bold energy and spiritual undertones reflect Ed’s unique blend of irreverence and depth.

Conclusion

The memorial service for Dr Edward James Nairn Stupples is a testament to a life characterised by intellectual depth, emotional generosity, and a profound sense of humanity. Though Ed is no longer with us, his legacy of thoughtfulness and empathy will continue to guide and inspire.

References

- The Cure. (2024). *And Nothing Is Forever*. On *Songs of a Lost World* [Album]. Polydor Records. Lyrics by Robert Smith.
 - James. (1989). *Sit Down*. Originally released as a single by Rough Trade Records; re-recorded for *Gold Mother* (1991). Lyrics by Tim Booth et al.
 - Jones, D. (2014). *Love and Space Dust*. Createspace Independent Publishing Platform.
 - The Stone Roses. (1992). *I Am the Resurrection*. On *The Stone Roses* [Album]. Silvertone Records. Lyrics by Ian Brown and John Squire.
-

Wake

Please join us at The Grange from 12.30pm in sorrow of an untimely departure and in celebration of a life well lived.
457 Burton Road, DE23 6XX

