

Farewells and tributes to the Cundy family at special St Peter's Day events

Gifts and tributes from the diocese were presented to Mrs Jo Cundy at a St Peter's Day garden party in Peterborough (29 June), who then led hundreds of invited guests in a Kenyan liturgical response as a joyous farewell.

And at the St Peter's Day Evensong in the Cathedral following the presentation, about 1000 people gathered to celebrate the mission of St Peter and the life and the life and work of Bishop Ian. Mrs Cundy read the Old Testament passage and her son Robert led some of the prayers.

Bishop Ian's humour and honesty were the virtues most frequently mentioned in tributes from family and friends, and their reminiscences were laced with both.

"To me Ian was the annoying brother who always seemed to know more than me!" was one comment from his brother Tim, who outlined Ian's wide ranging interests beyond his theological skills and ministry gifts: music, wine, walking, DIY, clocks, vintage cars.

The service included a musical setting of a Gerard Manley Hopkins poem by the Cathedral's former director of music, Christopher Gower, which had been specifically composed for Bishop Ian's farewell service at his own request.

"Never knowingly under-informed" was Tim Cundy's suggestion for the bishop's epitaph. As well as being the more sporty and outgoing of three brothers, who was "always getting into scrapes", he was above all "the calm amid the storms of life".

Family friend Rosie Watson spoke of joining a hair-raising climb of Helvellyn with two one-year old children (hers and the Cundy's) which illustrated the "why not?" approach and the "can do" attitude of Ian Cundy.

Two archdeacons, Jan McFarlane of Norwich who studied under Bishop Ian when he was warden at Cranmer Hall Durham, and David Painter of Oakham who worked with him on the senior staff of this diocese, spoke warmly of the late bishop's teaching and leadership skills.

"Wise, relaxed, approachable, unflappable, reassuring, he taught us to be priests not just by what he taught but by his very being" said Ms McFarlane. And Mr Painter stressed Bishop Ian's collaborative style and how he trusted colleagues to do their jobs.

That was also the message of Bishop Richard Llewellyn, formerly Bishop at Lambeth and a close friend of both Ian and Jo Cundy, who preached at the service. He recalled Bishop Ian's passion for people to realise their potential in God's service, and his passion to celebrate human and spiritual diversity.

"You could offer no greater thanksgiving for Bishop Ian than to strive to fulfil these two passions in your lives," he said.

At the garden party before the service, Lady Juliet Townsend, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, spoke of "team Cundy" as she paid tribute to the hospitality the couple offered to people from around the diocese, as well as to Mrs Cundy's own work with the NHS and other local organisations. She presented her with a specially-produced book of tributes and memories of Ian Cundy's ministry from many parishes in the diocese.

The Revd Alison White presented two rhododendron plants, which Jo had specifically wanted for the garden of her home in Durham, which were sourced in Scotland. Bishop Frank White presented her

with an icon which had been bought for Bishop Ian from the Holy Land but which he had not seen before his death.

Receiving the gifts, Jo Cundy referred to a greeting used in Bungoma, the Kenyan diocese linked with Peterborough. The minister says, "God is good!" and the people respond "All the time!" The minister then asks, "All the time?" and they respond "God is good!"

"Their life is very simple but they are full of thanks for the goodness of God," she said, adding that she and her late husband had been very aware of God's goodness all their lives.

And then, to guests basking in warm sunshine, she proclaimed, "God is good!" And from around the garden and above the sound of city traffic and cathedral bells came the resounding response, "*All the time!*" "All the time?" "*God is good!*"