

In Loving Memory of  
**'Baldy' Irwin**



**Norman David Irwin**

B.Sc., M.Sc., DIC, B.D.S., F.D.S.R.C.P.S. (Glasg.), FRGS

9<sup>th</sup> September 1941 ~ 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The Church Of Saint John The Evangelist  
Parish Of Malone  
141 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6SX

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
at 12.30pm

# A Trip Down Memory Lane



**The Early Years (1940's)** - Norman David Irwin was born on Tuesday 9th September 1941 to parents Agnes & Tommy. A very happy childhood spent growing up in the family home at 16 Knockbracken Park, Belfast, alongside younger sister Eileen and the family dog Ricky!

**School Days (1950's)** - Years filled with mischief and adventure! After attending Rosetta Primary School, I joined RBAI in 1953. Christened with the nickname 'Baldy', painted the posts at Ravenhill and made lifelong friendships along the way. An important decade that shaped my character.

**Globe Trotter (1960's)** - When the boy became a man. Completed first degree from QUB before having my eyes opened from hitch-hiking around the world for 2 ½ years. Arrived back in London, aged 26, to obtain a Diploma from Imperial College London, sneaked into Wembley to watch Georgie Best lift the European Cup in 1968 before returning home to Belfast to retrain in dentistry.

**Dentistry & "I Do" (1970's)** - President of the British Dental Students' Association, obtained F.D.S.R.C.P.S (Glasg.) and played rugby for Instonians RFC 4C's. Married my beautiful bride Morna in 1979, before jetting off on Big Trip #2 for our 930-day honeymoon around the world - she threatened to divorce me after the second continent!

**Kids & Climbing (1980's + 1990's)** - Opened my own dental practice in Belfast, invited to become a member of Mensa (achieving a higher I.Q. score than Stephen Hawking!) Arrival of children Connor, Lucy and Patrick and trekked to Everest Advanced Basecamp aged 51. Picked up another nickname of 'Mr. Bean' due to my love for Mini's!

**Family Life & Retirement (2000's)** - Spent many enjoyable years watching the kids grow up, making special memories on family holidays and having a very rewarding career in dentistry that spanned over 40 years. Enjoyed great company whilst sipping shandies at the Belfast Boat Cub & Instonians / Cooke RFC as well as many a Gentlemen's Luncheon! Married to my wonderful wife Morna of 44 years, who has been my steadfast companion - standing beside me through it all.

Thank you all for joining me on what has been one great big adventure.

Vale, N.D.I.



# Over The Years...



1946 - A young David with his father, Tommy Irwin.



1952 - The Irwins: Tommy, Eileen, Agnes & David.



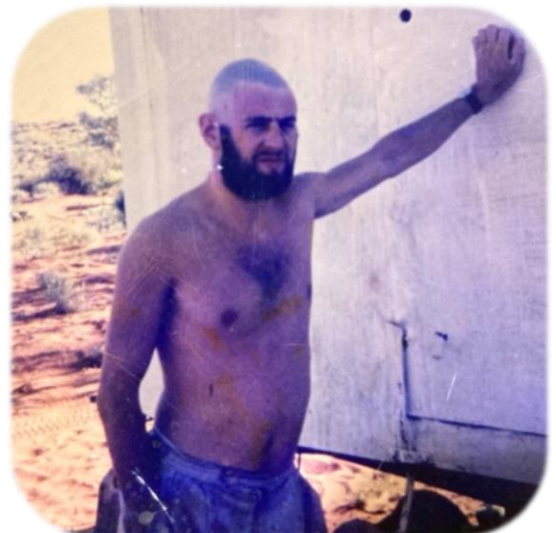
1953 - The star-studded Knockbreda Rovers FC.



1964 - David the geophysicist doing his sums.



1964 - David with his Uncle Norman in Toronto before driving this bus across Canada.



1966 - Playing up to his nickname 'Baldy', Simpson Desert, Australia.

# Over The Years...



1979 - Morna and David on their wedding day, Belfast, N.I.



1980 - David pulling teeth whilst on 'honeymoon' in Bophuthatswana.



1981 - Baldy introducing himself to the locals, Down Under.



1982 - Nearly home! David & Morna, Belize.



1993 - David en route to Everest Advanced Base Camp.

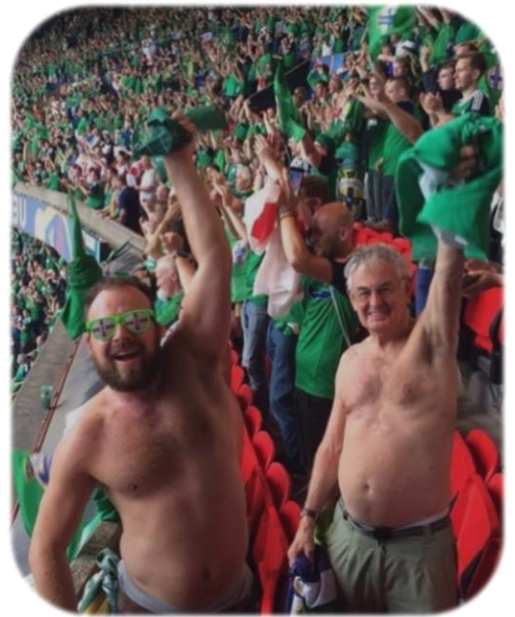


1990 - The Irwins: baby Patrick, David, Lucy, Morna & Connor.

# Over The Years...



2015 - After successfully 'stealing' the Crown Jewels of Ulster schoolboy rugby...



2016 - "Taps Aff" watching Norn Iron vs. Germany at Euro 2016, France.



**LEFT:** Rickety! Baldy watching Instonians RFC in his beloved sheepskin jacket that was bought from a street trader in Jerusalem in 1964.



**RIGHT:** Baldy displaying his support for Cooke R.F.C. - an allegiance inherited from his father who played for the club during the 1920's!



2024 - Morna & David enjoying Patrick and Gráinne's Wedding Day, Wexford.



2024 - Cherished time with the family and kid's partners: Matt, Gráinne & Monica.

# Order of Service

**Officiants:** Rev'd Canon Stephen Fielding, Rev'd Brian Crowe  
& Fr. Tom Layden SJ

**Organist:** Richard Campbell

## Entrance Music

*"Benedictus" - Karl Jenkins*

## Words of Welcome & Introduction

### Opening Prayer

#### Hymn 62

*Abide With Me*

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

### Family Tribute

*Connor Irwin*

### Collect

**Reading:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*Patrick Irwin*

# Order of Service

Reading: John 14:1-7, 27

*Fr. Tom Layden SJ*

Address

*The Rector*

Solo - "Lacrymosa: Do Not Stand By My Grave And Weep"

*David Macartney*

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 73

*The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended*

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
The darkness falls at thy behest;  
To thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,  
While earth rolls onward into light,  
Through all the world her watch is keeping,  
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor die the strains of praise away.

So be it, Lord; thy throne shall never,  
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,  
Till all thy creatures own thy sway.

The Farewell In Christ

Nunc Dimittis

Organ

*"Nimrod" (Enigma Variations) - Edward Elgar*

~

"To Live In Hearts We Leave Behind Is Not To Die"

*Thomas Campbell (Hallowed Ground)*

# Thank You

Morna, Connor, Lucy and Patrick, as well as the wider family circle, wish to thank you all for being here with them today and greatly appreciate the support and kindness shown to them in recent months.

Please note that the Committal Service will be held for close family and friends at **Roselawn Crematorium on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 12.00pm.**

Donations in lieu, if desired, may be made to Parkinson's UK or NI Hospice c/o S.Clarke & Son, 12 Court Square, Newtownards, BT23 7NY.

## Champagne Reception

Following the church service, the Irwin family warmly invite everyone to join us at **Instonians & Cooke Rugby Club** (address below) where Baldy has put on a champagne reception and live jazz band accompanied by light bites for all to enjoy.

We look forward to sharing memories of David with you... and in his own words ...

*"I will be disappointed if you do not all come and join us for the party at Shaws Bridge Bar after the church!"*



### Reception Address:

Instonians & Cooke RFC  
Shaws Bridge Sports Club,  
123 Milltown Road, Belfast, BT8 4XP