

## A TRIBUTE TO BETH



Our Darling Beth – daughter, sister, niece, friend, singing & dancing queen.

She made quite the entrance coming into our lives on the 19th January 2008 and from then on in showed immeasurable courage, determination and fortitude with all the challenges she faced. She never complained was always smiling, singing, dancing and was our ray of happiness. If any of us were remotely having a bad day 5 minutes in Beth's company would cheer us up. You were guaranteed a lot of fun and laughter with her as she had such a fantastic sense of humour.

Beth loved lots of different things including flowers and growing plants which interested her from a young age. She was often seen pottering about in the garden with her daddy sewing & watching her sunflowers and vegetables grow & took great joy in watching us eat her produce (we never could get her to try her fruits of her labours!) The love of flowers started at a very young age - at around 18 months she showed great determination grabbing a gerbera from a vase which should have been out of reach on a tall bookcase. I was alerted to her endeavours by a huge wail and found her drenched from head to toe but still triumphantly holding her prize.

Beth absolutely adored her big sister Hannah & loved spending as much time as possible with her. When they were little they were often found in the Wendy House sitting together, snacks and drinks by their side bird watching, painting or running their restaurant. The latter was also a game which would occupy many a

road trip and was elaborate with patrons even having a choice of crockery made to order but I would never recommend the meat option as it was always made from plants and leaves from the side of the road! As the two of them grew up their choice of games changed, in addition to the usual card and board games they would enjoy playing Minecraft and at Christmas Beth became a daemon Mario Kart racer using her new driving wheel!

Beth was incredibly caring and that side of her nature came out in her imaginative play her favourite things were vets & hospitals – both her mum and I would spend hours helping her look after sick patients. This caring side also was reflected in the jobs she would tell us she would do when she grew up - a Doctor, Nurse and Vet . The only outlier was a footballer!

Family was a very important part of Beth's life. She loved spending time with everyone and in addition to her parents and Hannah was blessed with lots of Aunts – Karen, Judith and Linda and I (who was just known as Aunty) and her cousins – Katie, Matthew, Tom & Joe. She kept us all in her prayers every night, but her male cousins were always referred to as the naughty boys! She also had her much-loved dog Teddy who gave her a lot of joy – the first question she would ask after school was how was her Teddy boy? Video calls from him would cheer her up immensely when she was in hospital.

As many of you will recall Beth loved to sing. In St Martins she got lots of joy from being a member of the Glee Club and she was an honorary member of the church choir joining both her dad and me in the choir pews on a Sunday. She had a fantastic memory so could remember the words of so many songs including tracks from some of her favourite films, ABBA and George Ezra. Music and singing gave her great joy and hearing her so happy brought joy to all around her.

Dancing was another of her great loves both watching and doing it. She got so much from the opportunities given to her at “Chance to Dance”. It was the highlight of any Saturday when she had dancing and loved being able to learn and perform on stage. We would often get demos of what she had learnt that week. Beth's Autumn Saturday night pleasure was watching Strictly Come Dancing, and she had her own set of paddles to mark the dances and she would keep score too. Her favourite judge was Craig, and she would always wait to hear his score before giving hers! One of my abiding memories will be of watching her and her daddy from across the auditorium at ABBA Voyage singing and dancing to Dancing Queen which was a joy to behold.

Beth packed so many things into her short life and was able to experience lots of different things. As a family we took the attitude that everything was possible and there were very few times when we were defeated. Beth's school Brookfields also gave enabled her to experience so many things and she was absolutely nurtured and grew so much during her time there.

There are so many people including medical and specialist professionals, Teachers & music therapists that helped Beth so much throughout her short life – their help and support ensured she was able to live life to the full and Caroline, Nigel, Hannah & I want to give thanks to them. You know who you are, but we thank every single one of you & Beth would have said thank you too.

Beth was this shining happy light in our lives, and it was a privilege to have shared every minute of her journey on earth. A friend said to me that she has a vision of Beth up in heaven with catching up with her Granny and having a laugh and a giggle. I am sure her other granny and grandad are also with her doing the same.