

Personal Stories

from Our Parish



The Ven. Clive Ronald Franklin Cohen 3rd January 1946 – 8th April 2019

Clive was born on 30 January 1946 in London, and attended Tonbridge School. Whilst at Edinburgh House Preparatory School, New Milton, where he worked as a junior assistant he met June Kefford, where her father was the headmaster. At the age of 23 Clive married June in April 1969 and made the decision that a change of occupation was required which saw him join the Midland Bank becoming the Streatham branch office manager in south London. In November 1977 Clive and June sadly lost their third child Aidan within a month of the birth which resulted in another change of life when Clive decided to enter the priesthood.

He began his training at Salisbury and Wells Theological College in the autumn of 1979, was ordained in Guildford Cathedral two years later, and then served his title in Esher, Surrey. Clive moved to Winterslow as Rector in 1985 where he left his legacy, in particular that of a new village hall, having prompted a community initiative, and personally moving the church out of a position of debt onto a sound footing utilising his banking skills. He also became synonymous with the message imparted in his sermons in a succinct and punchy way.

On leaving Winterslow Clive became Archdeacon of Bodmin once again transforming the Diocese finances whilst ministering to the needs of parishioners.

Clive and June moved to Teignmouth when Clive tried to retire in May 2011. But the quiet life was not for Clive, resulting in him serving two terms as a Chapter Canon of Exeter Cathedral and becoming Acting Archdeacon of Totnes for a year. Having failed in the attempt to retire again in 2017 he continued to conduct services in and around Teignmouth and served as the Chair of Trustee of Teign Heritage. He managed to fit in writing for leading historical journals and take time to express his support for Bath Rugby Club by attending their games.

While a committed Christian and Anglican priest, he was intensely proud of his Jewish roots.



The Clarendon Churches

Clive died on 8 April 2019, four days before what would have been his and June's golden wedding anniversary. She survived him, together with their children, Katherine, Alexander, William, and Edward, and seven grandchildren. He used the poem "The Life That I Have", which was read out at his request at his grave side, to express his love for June when he was buried at All Saints Church; again a specific personal request. Over 200 family, friends and parishioners attended the service to say their final farewell to the 6 feet 5 inches gentle giant who had such a lasting impact on their lives and left an enduring legacy for the community.

Mick Brown

Acknowledgments: Church Times
Salisbury Journal Wikipedia

Service to the church and community

- ◆ Ordained Deacon in 1981
- ◆ Ordained as a priest 1982
- ◆ Rector of Winterslow from 1985 to 2000
- ◆ Rural Dean of Alderbury 1989 to 1993
- ◆ Prebendary of Salisbury Cathedral from 1992 to 2000
- ◆ Archdeacon of Bodmin 2000 to 2011
- ◆ Hon. Canon of Truro Cathedral from 2000 to 2011
- ◆ Chapter Canon of Exeter Cathedral from 2011 to 2017
- ◆ Acting Archdeacon of Totnes 2014 to 2015
- ◆ Winterslow Charities

The Life That I have

The life that I have

Is all that I have

And the life that I have

Is yours.

The love that I have

Of the life that I have

Is yours and yours and yours.

A sleep I shall have

A rest I shall have

Yet death will be but a pause.

For the peace of my years

In the long green grass

Will be yours and yours and yours