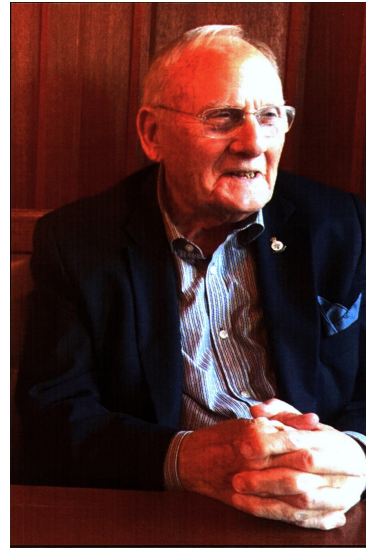




Obituary - Thomas William Ratcliffe Gore

Bill, as he was fondly known, was a devoted member of the Catenian Association, a loving family man, and a person whose unwavering Catholic faith guided him throughout his life, setting him as a role model for all of us. For nearly three decades, Bill was an esteemed brother of the Knutsford Circle in Province 17. In 2002, he was honoured to serve as Circle President, and he later dedicated several years to the Provincial Council as Membership Officer.



Thomas William Ratcliffe Gore was born in Urmston, Manchester, on January 5th, 1933. He was educated at St. Gregory's RC High School in Manchester, where he forged friendships that would last a lifetime.

In 1949, Bill began his apprenticeship at the Metropolitan Vickers Engineering Company in Trafford Park, working as a draftsman in the drawing office. Outside of work, he played rugby for the Metrovick first team and later for Shell Petroleum. During this time, he met Frances Glennon, a trainee nurse who would become his beloved wife for over sixty-five years.

In the 1950s, as a trade apprentice at one of the nation's leading power-generating companies, Bill took on a leadership role in one of the major trade unions, even leading a strike. His efforts earned him the title of 'Apprentice of the Year.' Bill's hard work soon led to a promotion, but he left the company in 1955 to fulfil his National Service. Bill's journey then took him to the Royal Navy, where, in 1956, he was commissioned as

an officer. He ultimately rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy Reserves.

Bill took great pride in his Manchester roots, and in 1958, after completing his National Service, he joined Shell Petroleum, working in Carrington, near Manchester. That same August, he married his wonderful and caring wife, Frances, and together they were blessed with five children: Michael, Edward, Phillip, Robert, and Katherine, who, without a doubt, was the apple of his eye.

Bills career then took him overseas when he was seconded to Shell Holland. With Frances by his side, he and their growing family travelled the world, facing the challenges of raising five children while constantly on the move a task Bill managed with remarkable grace, with plenty of support from Frances, of course!

In the 1970s, Shell transferred him to the Gulf States, where he worked as a senior construction engineer, based in Abu Dhabi. One notable event at this time was when Bill played a pivotal role under dangerous circumstances, ensuring that Bishop Bernard Giovanni Gremoli who would later become a Cardinal was able to celebrate Mass for a large group of Shell Indian contractors.

Just a few weeks before his passing, Bill wrote about his experiences in the Middle East for publication in the Shell International magazine.

After retiring, Bill settled in Knutsford to be closer to some of his family. He became an active member of St. Vincent de Paul Church, joined the Catenian Association, and developed a keen interest in golf, playing both at Knutsford Golf Club and with the Province 17 Golf Society. Bill also entertained the Province 17 Lunch Club, sharing captivating anecdotes from his time working in the war zones of the Gulf States.

Bill and Frances were strong supporters of the Catenian annual conferences and national golf weeks, where Bill made many lasting friendships throughout the Association. He was also an active member of the church music group and a founding member of the Canute Male Voice Choir in Knutsford.

A larger-than-life character, Bill had an infectious enthusiasm for being part of the lives of those around him. He always had something to say about our community, often with the intention of helping others, no matter who they were or where they came from.

Bill had a unique ability to be both serious and funny, calming and excitable, critical and loving all at once. He had strong opinions on how the world should be organized, whether it concerned politics, society, religion, industry, education, entertainment, sports, travel, or world affairs.

He always had something to say, often challenging perspectives in a way that sparked discussion. He enjoyed debate, wasn't afraid to be controversial, and often presented ideas he felt needed action.

Frances, whom Bill affectionately called "The Matron," cared for him like a guardian angel. Sadly, after a lifetime of devotion to one another, Bill was left widowed when his beloved Frances passed away on 9th February 2024 - almost exactly a year before his own death.

Bill's Catholic faith was central to his life. A cradle Catholic, he loved his church and everyone within it. From the age of eight to eighty, he served as an altar boy and assisted the celebrant at the Eucharist. He continued to serve at Mass on most Sundays until he was no longer able to climb the chancel steps.

Bill passed away just a few weeks after his ninety-second birthday. His Requiem Mass took place at St. Vincent's in Knutsford on 28th February. His body was received into the church with a Catenian Guard of Honour, a tribute to the respect and esteem he earned from his brothers. The Mass was attended by his family, friends, and many others who had been touched by his long and rewarding life.

Bill will be greatly missed.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE