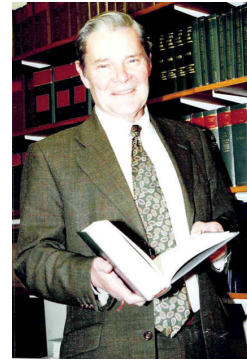




Obituary - Tony Weir

Anthony Weir - Tony - died peacefully on New Year's Day, aged 91.

Recently married and settled in Cheshire, Tony joined Knutsford Circle in December 1959, on the recommendation and introduction of a member from Birmingham, where he had grown up. He was



escorted to his inaugural Circle meeting by member Fergus O'Brien, who also kindly returned him home later that evening in - history recalls - a particularly "jovial" state.

Having believed himself to have a vocation for the priesthood when at St Philips Oratory School in Birmingham, Tony was persuaded by Reverend Brother Robert that his vocation was better served in the lay world and he studied law at Birmingham University. There he met Margaret, his wife to be. Both were involved in the drama society and, when Tony cast Margaret as Viola in a production of Twelfth Night, music did indeed prove to be the food of love. A music and a love that played on for nigh on seventy years.

Although tempted to follow a career in the theatre and in receipt of offers to do so, upon graduating from Birmingham Tony chose to pursue a career as a lawyer.

Alan Burke, a founder member of Knutsford Circle, introduced Tony to Stuart Hague, with whom Tony went on to form a solicitors' practice. Whilst the practice grew and over the years had offices in Manchester and Urmston, Lymm and Macclesfield, it was always embedded in Knutsford and its community.

In 1969 Tony and Margaret came to live in Knutsford with their young children John,

David, Andrew and Fiona and for Tony the town was always his professional and spiritual home.

Choosing to work out of King Street whenever possible, Tony delighted in having a cherry tree outside his window. Anyone passing by would have a view of the tree and Tony waving from behind the blossom. Clients often became good friends and many was the home that Tony visited even though the legal work had already all been done, because there was good company to be kept and a story to be shared.

Tony did many things in the community. He brought the Egerton Boys Club into the twentieth century, girls were finally welcomed and it became the Egerton Youth Club. He created a warm community for assisted living at the Abbeyfield Society. He was a director of the East Cheshire Mental Health Trust. He served as chair of the governors of St Vincents Primary School and was deeply involved in school life.

He and Margaret attended St Vincent's Church and were active members of the parish community. Tony was a regular reader at Mass and a keen, if not virtuoso, member of the choir.

In 1998 Tony was awarded the Benemerenti Medal by the Pope at a special mass given by Canon Cahill.

By happy coincidence his King Street office was a five minute walk from the first tee at Knutsford Golf Club where Tony served as captain and later as honorary president. He also played a role in the advancement of the standing and life of the lady members of the club.

Tony served as a Catenian for over 60 years. Having joined Knutsford Circle a year after its 1958 inauguration, he became president of the Circle in 1969 and assisted in the foundation of Wilmslow Circle. He went on to be provincial president in 1980.

He was an active member and contributed much to all aspects of Circle life. He was the careers and employment officer for many years, until poor health prevented him from continuing. He is perhaps most remembered, however, for his party piece the

Death of Nelson - in which he played all the parts with much energy and enthusiasm to the delight of all - and his many after dinner speeches, the first of which was the toast to the Circle on his first St George's night, at the then Royal George. Speeches or toasts that often contained ditties or poems about those present, composed specially for the occasion.

Sadly in later years Tony suffered from Alzheimer's. He fought this valiantly and continued to live a full and contributing life for many years. When he could no longer drive Margaret took him everywhere, often sitting in the car whilst he attended golf lunches, meetings and choir practice amongst other things. Catenian brothers also helped him to attend Circle meetings until this became impossible.

The last Circle meeting that Tony attended was in 2019 when he was presented with his 60 year scroll by Phil Brown. This meeting was unique in that it was the first time in Province 17 that ladies attended the meeting, in support of both Margaret and Tony.

Tony's last years were a struggle, in which he was helped by loving support from Margaret and his family, as well as many good friends and neighbours. In his last months he was also in the care of a team of highly skilled and compassionate health professionals. He was however, even when most challenged by Alzheimer's, always a gentleman, putting others first and treating all with kindness, respect and generosity of spirit.

In Tony's papers his daughter, Fiona, found a quotation from St Paul's letter to the Philippians, one that he had saved for one of his grandchildren. It is a sentiment that he wanted for his family and for all those he knew:

"I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone:".

MAY HE REST IN PEACE