

Press Statement for immediate release

Date: 6th July 2016

Statement Concerning the Death of Revd Jim Graham

The following statement is issued on behalf of Revd Jim Graham's family. Jim was the Senior Pastor of Gold Hill Baptist Church from 1968 to 1994. All enquiries regarding the statement should be directed to Revd Malcolm Duncan at Gold Hill, who is acting on behalf of the family.

It is with a profound sense of both sadness and thankfulness that we announce the passing of our dad. He died peacefully at home on the evening of the 5th July, surrounded by his children. We cannot begin to express how grateful we are to God for all that he meant to us. He was a deeply loved dad to us and our spouses and Papa to our children as well as a devoted husband to our mum, Anne, who passed away in 2012. His death leaves a great chasm in our lives but we are deeply comforted by the reality that he is now free from the restrictions of his physical body and that he is more alive and more fully himself than he has ever been. We take great comfort from our shared Christian hope and know that we will be united again.

We would like to thank all who have prayed for us and supported us as we have walked with dad. We are particularly grateful for the way in which so many have respected our privacy and given us uninterrupted and very precious time together as a family. We are so grateful to the Gold Hill Baptist Church family for their love, support and prayers for us all through this last chapter of dad's life.

A private burial attended by immediate family only will take place in the course of next week. We will also be holding a service of thanksgiving for dad's life at 2pm on Friday 22nd July at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Gold Hill East, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9DG. We warmly invite all who would like to celebrate dad's life to join with us on that occasion. Accommodation is available for those who will require it and there will be an opportunity for food and time together afterwards. All enquiries should be made to the Gold Hill Baptist Church, where further information is also available.

Psalm 100 states, 'I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter his courts with praise'. Dad did this. His last few days were marked with a deep sense of thankfulness to those around him and to God. We are not surprised by this, as our father was a man of deep faith, enormous grace and overflowing thankfulness. He recently published a paraphrase of some of Paul's epistles entitled 'The God-Life'. It feels right to give dad the last word. He paraphrases part of Philippians 3 in this way:

I want you to know that a single priority and a clear focus dominates all that I am; I have firmly and securely closed the door on my past and now my eyes are riveted on that yet-unreached horizon and every sinew and muscle that I possess is now concentrated on getting there....When I get out of bed each day, I do so for one purpose: to love, obey and serve God and his people. So it is onwards and upwards for me!!

Dad has now completed that journey.

-ENDS-



Notes to Editors

About Gold Hill Baptist Church

Gold Hill is a church family seeking to be an authentic, Christ-like community, encountering God, making disciples and transforming the world. Our main building is in Chalfont St Peter in South Buckinghamshire but we meet in small groups across Bucks & West London.

For more information or to discuss this statement, please contact:

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Media Enquires: Rev Duncan in the first instance.