



Shelagh Townsend-Rose 1933-2024

Shelagh was born on the 1st May 1933 at Maidstone Prison where her father was the Governor and attended St Paul's in London and later qualified as a Physiotherapist living and working in London. Most of her early married life was spent in Hampshire where Colin farmed in the New Forest and where they brought up Jonathan, Susanna and Annabel.

Just before Colin retired they bought a house in Glenlyon, where Shelagh spent some of her happiest days, painting, fishing, walking the banks of the river with her dogs and endlessly entertaining her children's friends. They eventually settled in the Borders and Shelagh engrossed herself in many voluntary and charitable works, amongst them Borders Talking Newspaper, NADFAS (latterly the Arts Society), jump judging and of course Church Recording.

Shelagh, like her father, believed in rehabilitation and not punishment and for the last 20 years she was a very active and well informed member of the Visiting Committee at HM Polmont Young Offenders Institute, helping young men to prepare themselves for the outside world. Religion was very important to Shelagh and after deep consideration she started the long journey that would lead to her conversion to Catholicism seven years ago.

Church Recording was Shelagh's great love and in 1993 with a group of 14 from Borders NADFAS, she recorded Maxton Kirk as her first church. A total of 16 churches were recorded under her guidance and she was working on her 17th right up until she died. She was an Area representative in Scotland, the representative for Scotland on the Church Recording National Team and co-authored a booklet, 'The Church in Scotland', for the guidance of Recorders

In 2015 Shelagh was given the Individual Award by the Marsh Charitable Trust She provided a great amount of support and guidance to local teams of recorders, she promoted the work of Church Recorders nationally and encouraged links with external organisations. It was very fitting that in 2018 she was asked to represent the Society reading a lesson at the 50th Anniversary Service in Westminster Abbey

Shelagh was proud of her children and eight grandchildren. She was a real constant in their lives, consistent, fair and always putting them first without fail. Unconditional love always, no matter what. Never critical, judgemental or complaining – she treated everyone the same.

David Medcalf, Chairman of the Trustees writes "Shelagh's enthusiasm for Church Recording and her work over so many years was second to none. She represented Scotland. To me, she was unflappable and the person to whom Scotland's Recorders turned when needing sound advice. Simply outstanding."