

A Celebration of the Life of

Lorraine Caroline Cordell

3 October 1963 – 7 April 2026

Funeral Service
Friday 29 May 2026 at 5.00 pm
North Chapel - Enfield Crematorium

Gathering Music

'Three Little Birds' – Bob Marley & The Wailers

Entrance Music

'Many Rivers To Cross' – Jimmy Cliff

Welcome – Honouring the Life of Lorraine

WELCOME & OPENING WORDS

Good afternoon, everyone.
And thank you for being here today.

We have come together to remember...
to honour...
and to celebrate the life of Lorraine Cordell.

Or Rainey...
as so many knew and loved her.

A mum.
A nan.
A sister.
A friend.
And a woman who meant a great deal
to many people here today.

My name is Andrew...
and it has been my privilege to work with Lorraine's family
to create a service that feels true to her.

Honest.
Warm.
And real.

Today is, of course, a sad day.

But it is also a day of gratitude...
for Lorraine's life...
for the love she gave...
and for the way she brought people together.

So today...
we remember Rainey properly.

The woman who helped people.
Who loved fiercely.
Who held family close.
And who leaves behind a presence
that will be deeply missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FAMILY

Family was at the centre of Lorraine's world.

Today we are joined by her children...
Simon... Tyrone... and Deon...
along with their partners and children...
who brought Lorraine enormous pride and happiness throughout her life.

We also acknowledge Jimmy...
Deon's fiancé...
and someone who became a long-standing and much-loved part of Lorraine's wider family life.

We also acknowledge her sister Sheila...
her brother Andrew...
Benji...
the wider family...
and the many friends whose lives were touched by Lorraine over the years.

Especially those who stood beside her
and cared for her with such love and dedication
during her final years.

Your presence here today speaks of the affection...
the respect...
and the love people held for Rainey.

REMEMBRANCE

We also take a moment today
to remember those who went before Lorraine...
family members and loved ones
who remain part of her story...
and whose memory remains close to those gathered here today.

Eulogy Part One - Laughter, Mischief, and Growing Up

Lorraine...
was born on the 3rd of October 1963...
at North Middlesex Hospital.

She was the eldest of three children...
born to Kathy and Jimmy...
and grew up in a lively...
close-knit family home...
alongside her sister Sheila...
and younger brother Andrew.

And by all accounts...
life in that house was never quiet.

There was always noise...
always laughter...
always somebody getting into trouble.

There were arguments over dolls...
roller skates mysteriously disappearing out the front window...
while Lorraine was apparently trying to sneak off skating unnoticed...

and more than a few accidents involving broken glass.

At one point...
Lorraine and Sheila were arguing on the stairs...
and Sheila ended up falling backwards...
needing stitches to the back of her head.

Another time...
Andrew somehow ended up going straight through a glass door.

And then there was the famous window incident.

Lorraine and Sheila were upstairs one day...
apparently bored...
and somehow decided to see
if they could open the bedroom window
using only their feet.

So there they were...
lying on the bed...
pushing against the frame with their feet...

until suddenly...

the entire window disappeared clean out of the wall...
and out of the house!

Their parents were not happy!

But hearing these stories now...
there's such warmth in them.

Because underneath all the chaos...
all the scrapes...
and all the trouble they somehow managed to find...

was love.

A proper sibling bond.
The kind built on growing up together...
sharing everything...
fighting one minute...
laughing the next.

As a girl...
Rainey loved skating...
swimming...
and was an incredibly talented gymnast.

In fact...
Lorraine was good enough to be considered for the school gymnastics team.

But after badly injuring her foot as a teenager...
and the injury not healing properly...
that dream came to an end.

And although that upset her deeply at the time...
it also revealed something important about Lorraine...

because throughout her life...
no matter what challenges came her way...
she kept going.

She attended Alma School...
before later going to Ambrose Fleming School...
where she built many close friendships.

She was popular...
funny...
strong-minded...
and full of personality.

People remembered her.

And even in those early years...
you can already see the qualities that would stay with her throughout life...

her energy...
her resilience...
her loyalty to family...
and the sense that wherever Lorraine was...

life always seemed a little louder...
a little busier...
and a little more alive.

Tribute from Sheila

We will now hear some words from Lorraine's sister, Sheila.

To Our Sister, Our Hero

We think about you always.
We think about you still.

You have never been forgotten...
and you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts...
and there you will remain...

To walk with us throughout our lives...
until we meet again.

Love always,
Sheila

Eulogy – Part Two - The Heart of the Family

Family meant everything to Rainey.

And as the years went on...
she became the person who held everybody together.

She became Mum...
to Simon...
Tyrone...
and Deon...
and family life quickly became the centre of her world.

The family spoke about a childhood filled with holidays...
days out...
and the simple kind of moments that stay with people forever.

Trips to the seaside.
Southend.
Butlins.

Family gatherings.
Busy homes.
Children everywhere.
Food cooking in the kitchen.
Music playing.
People coming and going.

And Lorraine loved that atmosphere.

She loved everybody being together.

Christmas especially...
was a huge event in the house.

Preparations would begin long before the day itself.
Vegetables being chopped.
Cream being whisked by hand...
because Lorraine insisted it had to be done properly.
Arguments over who made the best trifle.
Snowballs at Christmas!

And hearing the family speak about those moments...
you realise those traditions weren't really about the food at all.

They were about togetherness.

Because Lorraine created a home where people felt welcome.

Not just family...
but friends too.

Children's friends would stay over.
People who needed help...
or somewhere safe...
or simply somebody to listen...
often found themselves welcomed in by Rainey.

Many of Tyrone's...
Simon's...
and Deon's friends...
ended up viewing Lorraine almost like a second mum.

And that says so much about the kind of woman she was.

She was protective.
Loyal.
Strong-minded.
And fiercely caring.

The family also spoke about how much Lorraine loved holidays throughout her life...
especially time spent at the caravan in North Wales with family.

Simple moments.
Fresh air.
Laughter.

Being together.

Because for Lorraine...
life was never really about possessions.

It was about people.

And perhaps the thing said most often about her...
was this:

she held the family together.

And since losing her...
there is a feeling that something enormous is missing.

Because people like Lorraine...
people who become the heart of a family...
leave a space behind that can never quite be filled.

Tribute from Deon

We will now hear some words from Rainey's daughter, Deon.

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Visual Tribute

*We will now take a few moments
to reflect on Lorraine's life through photographs...*

Accompanied by 'Hero' - Mariah Carey

Eulogy Part Three - Passions, Purpose, and PCs

Everybody who knew Lorraine knew this one thing for certain...

if you were looking for her...

there was a very good chance she would be sitting at her computer...
cup of tea nearby...
completely focused on fixing something.

Computers were not simply a hobby for Rainey.

They were a genuine passion.

She taught herself constantly.
Studied endlessly.
Took computers apart...
rebuilt them...
fixed them for family...
friends...
neighbours...
and pretty much anybody who needed help.

And over time...
Lorraine became known for it.

Her home became what one family member laughingly described as an "Internet café".

People coming in and out.
Computers everywhere.
Children learning.
Friends asking for help.
Problems being solved.

And what's lovely...
is how many lives she quietly influenced through that passion.

Her nephew Dwayne said that growing up around Lorraine...
watching her and her friends working on computers...
having access to technology through her...
completely shaped his future.

Today...
he works as a software engineer.

And he says he will always be grateful for those memories...
because Lorraine opened a world to him that helped define the direction of his life.

But alongside computers...
there was another huge passion in Lorraine's life...

justice.

If somebody was struggling with housing...
benefits...
legal problems...
or fighting some kind of unfairness...
Lorraine would help.

And she didn't just give advice.

She researched.
Organised paperwork.
Built case files.
Helped people prepare for court.
Explained systems people didn't understand.

And amazingly...
she helped many people win their cases.

So much so...
that people are still writing messages now...
speaking about the difference she made in their lives.

Lorraine believed in standing up for people.

She believed in fairness.
Honesty.
Respect.

But alongside all of that determination...
there was also a softer...
warmer side to Rainey too.

She loved music.

UB40.
Soul music.
Queen.
Reggae.

Especially Dennis Brown.

There was often music playing somewhere around the house...
and like so much in Lorraine's life...
music became part of the atmosphere she created around people.

She also loved food.

Chinese food... especially chop suey.
Jamaican food.
Sausages.
Sweets too...

particularly Blackjacks.

And she absolutely adored animals.

Dogs.
Cats.
Birds.

The family still laugh about the time her bird, Sinbad, escaped.

Lorraine was determined to get him back.

So she recorded her own voice onto a tape...
calling out for Sinbad...
and then played it loudly on repeat...
over and over again...
hoping the bird would hear her and return home.

And honestly...
that story says so much about Lorraine.

Determined.
Funny.
Resourceful.
And completely devoted to the things she loved.

And perhaps that influence continues today too.

Because her granddaughter Brooke...
now studying at Oxford with ambitions of becoming a barrister...
made Lorraine enormously proud.

And Lorraine absolutely adored her grandchildren.

Brooke...
Sonny...
and Leo.

Teaching them things.
Encouraging them.
Watching them grow.

Even teaching Brooke computer skills so well...
that she once bypassed the school computer restrictions...
leading to a very awkward phone call home.

And Lorraine found that absolutely hilarious.

Because that was Rainey.

Bright.
Determined.
Funny.
Curious.
Always learning.
Always helping.

And always there for the people she loved.

Tribute from Tyreese

[We will now hear a tribute from Rainey's grandson, Tyreese.](#)

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Eulogy Part Four - Final Years, Courage, and Legacy

In the final years of her life...
Lorraine faced more than her fair share of health battles.

After undergoing a triple heart bypass...
she later began dialysis treatment...
and from that point on...
life became increasingly difficult physically.

There were infections.
Hospital stays.
Exhaustion.
And periods where many people might simply have given up.

But not Lorraine.

Because one thing the family said again and again...
was this:

she never stopped fighting.

Even whilst dealing with so much herself...
her instinct was still to focus on other people.

Still helping.
Still advising.
Still checking in on family.
Still sitting at that computer whenever she could.

And throughout those years...
she was surrounded by love.

The family especially wanted to acknowledge those who cared for Lorraine in her later life...
those who stood beside her...
supported her...
and helped her through some incredibly difficult times.

That care meant a great deal to her...
and meant a great deal to the family too.

Because Lorraine had spent her whole life looking after others.

And in the end...
that same love came back to her.

And despite everything she went through...
people still remember her humour...
her strength...
and her warmth.

The woman who helped people.
The woman who held family close.
The woman everybody turned to.

And perhaps one of the most moving images shared by the family...
came from her nephew Dwayne...
who said he likes to imagine Lorraine now...
up there somewhere...
with her laptop open...
a cup of tea beside her...
still busy doing something on a computer.

And honestly...
for everyone who knew Rainey...
that image feels exactly right.

Because Lorraine leaves behind far more than memories.

She leaves behind influence.
Strength.
Knowledge shared with others.
Children and grandchildren she adored.
And a family held together for many years by her love.

And although her absence is deeply felt...
the mark she made on the people around her...
will remain for a very long time to come.

The Lord's Prayer

We now come to The Lord's Prayer...
and I invite you to join in... if you wish.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Farewell to Lorraine

INTRODUCE COMMITTAL

The time has come to say our final farewells to Lorraine.

Please stand if you're able.

COMMITTAL (Facing the coffin)

Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes, because for those who love with their heart and soul there is no such thing as separation. Remember, death is just love, facing up to its old adversary.

CURTAINS TO STAY OPEN

So here, in this final act,
in sorrow but without fear,
we gently yield the body of
Lorraine Caroline Cordell
to its end with nature.

CURTAINS TO STAY OPEN

SCENE OUT

Lorraine,
what a wonderful life you lived.
And what an impact you made on others.

It is because of the life you have led,
the choices you made,
the love you gave and received,

and the life you created around you,

that those gathered here today,
in your honour,
to say goodbye,

are able to let you go — to your rest — in peace.

PLEASE BE SEATED

Closing Words

We have now reached the end of our ceremony for Lorraine

.

On behalf of her family, thank you for your presence here today,
for your support,
your kindness,
and the love you have shown.

The family warmly invite you to join them afterwards at
The Rising Sun, on Winchester Road, in Edmonton.

In a few moments...

close family will be invited forward to place flowers with Lorraine as we say our final goodbyes.

Afterwards, the funeral director will assist you as you leave the chapel.

Thank you once again for being here today...
and please have a safe onward journey.

Music as We Leave: 'Ring My Bell' — Anita Ward

Always in Our Hearts