Thank you Karen for your wonderful words of love and reflection and comfort...

And it's to Dorothy's calling and welcome into the kingdom of heaven... that we come together in song for today's chosen hymn 'Lord Of All Hopefulness'

Hymn: 'Lord Of All Hopefulness'

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Green Books

words as per OOS

Dorothy Hillier; A Life Well Lived

As you can imagine it is impossible in just a few minutes to portray in words the life of a woman who has lived such a full and varied 92 years, and no portrait no matter how good will be a complete reflection to those of you who knew Dorothy well.

All I can really do is sketch her picture, but I will ask for you to fill in the colours of this proud, hardworking, thoughtful and kind, family orientated woman..

Born into a close and supportive family in Wootton Bassett (*as was known back then*) on the 29th November 1923; Dorothy was one of 10 children to her parents Mary and Charlie Hacker, (*who passed away when Dorothy was a young girl*).

Now as you can imagine growing up in a large family, in the depression years of 1920's and 30's without their dad, life for Dorothy and her siblings was no bed of roses; times were often very tough.. indeed Dorothy thought nothing of walking the three miles to go to school and in later years many more miles to complete her work commitment.

And it was in all those kinds of environments that Dorothy's own strength of character was forming, particularly her strong will, determination and resilience....

Determined to do things her way, Dorothy was resolute, focused and fuelled by a need to be her own person, which in fairness, she accomplished in countless ways until the very end...

She was certainly unwavering in her love for her husband Reg whom she married on the 19th September 1942.

Throughout their good, lengthy and meaningful marriage, Dorothy and Reg shared so much, especially their pleasure in going dancing.

Dorothy derived so much pleasure from those dance meets with friends and family alike; she loved to get dressed up in her gowns.

They set up home together in Redhills (*the family home ever since*). It was a house that they chose themselves, and at that time it didn't even have a road leading to it... but it a house that Dorothy quickly set about turning into a home with a

warm welcome for everyone to visit ... *not that she went house-hopping herself I hasten to add.*

It was indeed a loving home where Dorothy and Reg raised their seven children David, Brian, Bob, Susan, Daphne and the twins Allan and Keith; all of whom they wanted the very best for... *well except when Allan brought another tractor home to refurbish that is!*

That aside, Dorothy was always there for them, in-fact she was more than simply her children's mum, she was an engaging, positive influence, offering support, guidance and encouragement. *Nothing was ever too much trouble when it came to her family, even getting up at 3am in the morning to cook them a good breakfast!*

But then, that was another talent of Dorothy's, she was a good cook, providing it was traditional meat and vegetables, pies and puddings that is... *oh, and a good fry up* for breakfast!

But looking after seven children who were busy in their own pursuits, Dorothy needed to maintain order and was very punctual when it came to meal times...

Lunch was 12.00 noon
4pm was tea.

And it was that same loyalty, love and counsel that Dorothy afforded to her 36 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren; all of whom she loved and adored and so looked forward to seeing whenever possible or hearing of their news, developments and achievements.

Exceptionally proud of her ever growing family, their photos adorned Dorothy's walls, ***in-fact the filled just about every inch of wall space***!

But no matter what the size of her family, she never forgot a birthday, Christmas or celebration; she never failed to buy a special gift or Easter Egg.. *in-fact whenever you visited you always left with something extra*; be it vegetables that she'd grown in the garden (*indeed Dorothy was tending her garden well into her late 80's*) or one of the many Christmas cakes, chocolate logs, or puddings (complete with a thrupenny bit and lots of Brandy!) that she'd made!