

A Thanksgiving Service

for

The Rev'd Ken Broadbent

St Mary's Anglican Church, Busselton, Western Australia

Tuesday 8 February 2022



Kenneth Edward Broadbent

August 20th 1930—January 26 2022

The Rev'd Ken Broadbent died very early on Australia Day morning in the Hospice at Busselton Hospital. He was 91. He recently celebrated 60 years since ordination as a Deacon in December 1961 and would have been 60 years as a Priest in December this year.

Ken was born in Sydney and lived in Coogee until he was in his early 20s. His schooling suffered from the fact that it largely took place during WW2, when many of the best teachers were away fighting. However, he achieved an apprenticeship with the de Havilland Aircraft Company and gained his trade certificate as a toolmaker.

But life on the workshop floor was definitely not for him. At age 17 he became interested in acting and trained at Rathbone Academy of Dramatic Art in Sydney. Following his training he found work in radio and theatre, making his professional Shakespearean debut playing Caliban in *The Tempest*. Not the most glamorous of roles!

In 1954 Ken travelled to England and worked for nearly 5 years in English repertory companies. After returning to Australia he worked consistently in theatre, film and radio. He was even cast as Chesty Bond in a new advertising campaign, but declined the offer!

In 1959, while performing in The Elizabethan Theatre Trust's production of *Julius Caesar*, he met me! I was living in Sydney while attending drama school. Ken didn't know anything about church, except that he had been baptised at age 12. Despite this, he began to attend my chosen place of worship with me, Christchurch St Laurence in Sydney. Within a short space of time he was hooked. We became engaged and, under the care of Christchurch's wonderful Fr John Hope, Ken came gradually to realise that he had a vocation. We were married in May 1960 and he was confirmed the following July. Before we knew it, we were on the train to Perth and Ken became a student at Wollaston Theological College.

He ministered in the Diocese of Perth from 1961 until 1987: as a curate in Dalkeith and Scarborough, and as a priest in Nollamara-Balga, Kenwick-Thornlie and Mt Pleasant. From 1987 to 1992 he was Priest in Charge at Mt Barker (Southern Ranges).

During this time we became a family, welcoming Marc in 1962, Ellie (Elinor) in 1965 and Hope in 1966.

In 1965 we discovered Bremer Bay. We promptly fell in love with it, bought a block in town and built a house. Neither of us were ever really sure how we did it. Later we sold this house and built Boondyup, our stone house on our magical land on the Point Henry Peninsula.

In 1992 Ken and I retired to Boondyup and lived in wonderful, relative solitude for 29 years. One of our chief joys during retirement was travel, and we had several overseas trips (Venice was our particular favourite) as well as throughout Australia. Between 1994 and 2001 we acquired 6 wonderful grandchildren. Ken took all Church services in Bremer when the Parish no longer had a priest, and only ceased officiating in the last two years of his life when, suffering from heart failure, he no longer felt able to do so. In 2021, almost exactly a year ago, we sold Boondyup and bought our house in Busselton. This enabled us to be with Hope and closer to Ellie in Perth. Marc is now a Queenslander; we stay in touch as much as possible.

During the last year, because of his illness, Ken was only a shadow of himself. His death was a release. He put his hand into the hand of God, whom he served faithfully.

Priscilla—Ken's wife for 62 years and 8 months.

Loving God, you alone are the source of life. May your life giving spirit flow through us, and fill us with compassion, one for another. In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace. Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy and loving Father, by your almighty power you gave us life, and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus. We entrust Ken to your merciful keeping: In the faith of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to save us, And now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory forever. Amen

Final Hymn

One more step along the world I go
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you
And its from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with you

Give me courage when the world is rough
Keep me loving when the world is tough
Leap and sing in all I do
Keep me travelling along with you
And its from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with you

Round the corners of the world I turn
More and more about the world I learn
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me
And its from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with you

You are older than the world can be
You are longer than the life in me
Ever old and ever new
Keep me travelling along with you
Yes! its from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with you

As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And its from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with you

Sydney Carter 1971



"Thou know'st 'tis common; all that live must die, Passing through nature to eternity."

"The rest is silence."

William Shakespeare



Barcelona, September 2016