Funeral Service and Celebration
Of the Life of

Tommy Thompson
1929 – 2018

St Giles Church, Great Coxwell
Tuesday 22nd May 2018
11:30am

Service conducted by the Reverend David Williams
OUR FAREWELL TO SQN LDR ‘TOMMY’ THOMPSON (1929 - 2018)

On the 22nd May, a beautiful Spring Day, family, colleagues and friends joined together at St Giles Church, Great Coxwell, to celebrate the life and say farewell to Sqn Ldr Tommy Thompson.

The number of those who attended was testimony to Tommy’s life which was enriched with a loving family, the friendships of those from his RAF years spent as a captain on Britannia’s and VC10’s and the many friends he had made in the 46 years he had lived in Great Coxwell.

His career on Britannia Airways, following his retirement from the RAF, was also recognised by many of the colleagues with whom he had flown as a captain on Boeings 737 and 767.

The Royal Air Force was represented by 10 Squadron co-pilot Flt Lt Lance Levin and Wg Cdr (Retd) Mike Westwood, Chairman of 10 Squadron Association, who read the poem ‘High Flight’ by Plt Off John Gillespie Magee RCAF.

Tommy’s son in law, Brigadier Robbie Burns (Retd), recalled in his excellent eulogy the story of Tommy’s life from the days as a young officer, married to Margaret and initially too young to qualify for a married quarter, the joy of his family and his career as a pilot which began when he was posted to 112 Squadron where he flew Vampires and Sabres. This was followed by a posting to 43 Squadron flying Hunters. His ethos and love of flying surely shone through to his time on the RAF Britannia’s and VC10s and continued on the Boeings of Britannia Airways. Applause rose from those present when Robbie produced seven of Tommy’s log books recording a total of 16,700 flying hours.

Tommy’s years working in local government after his retirement in local planning was also recognised and also his love of golf and his obsession of collecting cars.

Robbie’s reminder of Tommy’s wicked sense of humour and his irreverence brought laughter to those present who remembered how much laughter he had brought into peoples lives. He loved nothing more than to debunk pomposity. We also remembered his kindness. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, always there to support and encourage his family. Those who lives had been touched by Tommy will always remember him as a wonderful friend, colleague, and an outstanding airman.

Sgt Ruth Sidney a trumpeter of the Band of the RAF Regiment Band played the last Post and Reveille.

As we said our final farewells to Tommy, Edith Piaf sang ‘Je ne regrette rien’ which perfectly summed up Tommy’s life.
Following the funeral the family invited us to join them at Wickstead Farm for refreshments and to share many fond memories of Tommy.

As we sat in the beautiful garden at Wickstead a C130 of 47 Sqn from Brize Norton made a low flypast in his honour, which was very much appreciated by his family and all those present. Tommy would have loved it. RIP

Ann Bihan

After Glow

I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an after-glow
Of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo,
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve.
To dry before the sun.
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done.