

Dear friends

It is now one year since Mum (Norma Herd) died at home in Weymouth on 30 May 2019. We miss her every day, as we are sure many of you do too. What a strange year 2020 is - we hope that you are staying well in our new COVID-19 era. Although we miss Mum, we are glad that she has been spared the isolation and worry of these times. If Mum was around she would have had a good verse and also found something to have a good laugh about.

This summer we had planned to carry out Mum's wishes and gather friends and family for an ashes ceremony at the Lamp dedicated in Dad's name at St Ann's in Weymouth (see picture) and informally at the Rothwell family grave in Belfast but we have put these on hold for another year. It's obviously hard for Chris to get to the UK from Australia, travel in the UK is currently not possible and family gatherings are banned (except for politicians!), so we don't really have a choice. However we will definitely do this at some time and will give advance notice. Maybe 2021...?

Mum and Dad left a part of themselves in Karamoja and wished to also have a plaque and some ashes in the new Moroto Cathedral, along with a blessing of the pews that will be donated with money through Crosslinks in memory of them both. This trip is also hard to plan. Joy has several large research studies and PhD students in Uganda and goes quite often (normally) but we want a time when all three sisters can go together if at all possible. Many thanks to those of you who donated to the memorial fund after Mum's funeral - whether through the funeral home or through Crosslinks. We are delighted to say that together we have raised almost enough. The fund is still open - if you missed this last year and want to add something you can by card or bank transfer online via Crosslinks (with GiftAid if appropriate) using "Karamoja-Norma Herd appeal" from Step 1 dropdown menu <https://www.crosslinks.org/get-involved/give/step1>

Please feel free to forward this on to any of Mum's friends.

With best wishes to all of you from Joy, Chris and Tricia

Here's a brief news round-up from the Herd Girls, as we know Mum would have updated you if she was here...

Joy Lawn and family

Being home alone for several months is not easy, with an obvious gap for both Steve (husband who died of a brain tumour) and Mum. Happy for the privilege (and busyness) of working at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, involving many grants and a large team all over the world including a network of 60 hospitals across Africa working to improve newborn survival ([NEST360](#)). Hence able to undertake many studies, and innovations to address the pandemic. Most days are full of zoom calls, too much work, and some media on COVID-19 from the sublime (BBC Horizon) to the ridiculous (Mirror and even Russian TV). Tim is 25 year old and doing a PhD in clinical neuroscience at King's (currently from the kitchen in his small flat in Southbank not in the lab!). Joanna is 22 and final year Fine Art at Chelsea and sad her final exhibition is cancelled. Jo's graduation was due to be on her Nana's (Norma's) birthday, 14th July - also cancelled. Both Tim and Jo have long term partners and seem settled and happy.

Chris Grove and family

Chris and family are glad at the moment that they live in a back water at the end of the world. Tasmania has fared pretty well in the virus crisis, thanks to closing the borders and instigating quarantine before the virus became established. Currently our area has been virus free for weeks, apart from one case from a cruise ship passenger. We

think of friends and family every day in less fortunate places, and miss Mum a lot. Chris and Simon are working mostly at home but can also work at work, James is in second year uni and studying at home online and Ben's gap year job is working as a labourer for an underpinning engineer - he is working outside everyday, enjoying driving electric wheelbarrows! We are blessed to be living in a safe and peaceful spot and all have our jobs and roles continue. We have bought a wonderful campervan with some money from Mum and have named her "Norma". We are looking forward to some great adventures with this Norma when lockdown measures ease a bit.

Trish DeLaszlo and family

We feel fortunate to have moved to Alton, Hampshire. Having a bigger house and garden has made lockdown easier than it would have been in our previous tiny flat in London. We are especially grateful to be able to go for lovely walks in the countryside. Tricia still misses Mum every day and the support she gave all of us. The nursery she works at is closed till September, but she is now very busy with both boys at home. Oliver will soon be starting a new job as a Team Administrator in the community hospital near our home. Tom (14) loves his pet gecko "Kiki" and online gaming. Sammy (11) who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy is on the official government list to be shielded. He is normally at Treloar school which is a very supportive environment and have been helpful during the lockdown.

