

Barbara Turner's 80th Birthday – 11th February

Everyone has now had a Birthday during some form of lockdown. Some will even be coming up to their second Birthday. My 80th Birthday fell in early February and I knew it would not be as I had been planning. A group of my friends and myself usually have a City break for Big Zero Birthdays, but this wasn't going to happen this year.

However, with a bit of creativity, it turned out to be an exciting and amazing day. My sister arranged a Zoom link and we sent it out to everyone we thought would join us for a Zoom party at 3pm onwards. The day started with a Ministry team meeting, which I disrupted, as I had to keep leaving to go to the door for delivery of boxes of flowers and a bouquet. After the meeting, I had friends and neighbours dropping presents off on the doorstep, and some even singing Happy Birthday on the drive.



My son and his family turned up later with lots of presents in a bag, which took a while to unwrap, and a lovely birthday cake. Although it was a freezing cold day, we kept our distance outside the door. They have been very protective during this crisis. All day, there were phone calls and texts of good wishes.

Lots of friends and family joined the Zoom party and we had a lot of fun. Later in the evening, when I was relaxing, my sister sent a video, which contained many appearances of friends and family sending greetings. This was a huge surprise, especially to see Fr. Mark and family, Deryn, Marie and several church members as well as grandchildren and friends. They had all taken time to record a message. The day ended with a zoom chat with my brother in Canada.

What a fabulous day. I had five bouquets of flowers, an orchid, a basket of tiny daffs, a rose and of course a couple of bottles of wine. My sister had an album printed of our family as we were growing up. Something I will always treasure.

So many people had made such an effort to make my birthday special and I felt blessed. Even when we can meet up again to celebrate missed birthdays, I don't think this one could be beaten.