



# Celebrating the life of



## Stephen Andrew Thomas

March 31st 1950 - March 30th 2025

Bierton Crematorium, Cane End Lane, Aylesbury HP22 5BH 3.00 pm Weds 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 Celebrant: Ian Noakes





## Old friends



J. Ansbro, S. Hopkins, Steve at Santa Pod Drag racing  $\sim$ 1993



And again, 25 years later





### ORDER OF SERVICE

Entrance music 'Bach – Organ Sonata No 4' Vikingur Ólafsson

Welcome and Introduction by Ian Noakes

First remembrance by Steve Hopkins

Music 'Across the Universe'
The Beatles



Steve 1978









# Second remembrance by Bill Trythall

Music 'Paradise Skies'
The Defendants, featuring Steve Thomas

I've seen the distant lights burning on the horizon Soon they will be – far out to sea Their course is set for shores ever distant Where children sleep - in the land of the free

> I will be strong I must hold on Somebody will rescue me

Earth tears so long without a prayer And if I cry – it's only despair Lord tell me why I'm still alive To count my days - under paradise skies

I can see the distant lights just beyond on the horizon Soon they will be – right here with me They're cargo-bound for merchants and traders I know this time – they will rescue me









## Reading from 'The Letters of Machiavelli.' by John Ansbro

"When evening comes, I go back home and go to my study. On the threshold, I take off my work clothes, covered in mud and filth, and I put on the clothes an ambassador would wear. Decently dressed, I enter the ancient courts of rulers who have long since died. There, I am warmly welcomed, and I feed on the only food I find nourishing and was born to savour. I am not ashamed to talk to them and ask them to explain their actions and they, out of kindness, answer me. Four hours go by without my feeling any anxiety. I forget every worry. I am no longer afraid of poverty or frightened of death. I live entirely through them."











# Third remembrance by Barry Turrell

Closing Words Ian Noakes

### Committal and Blessing

Exit music 'I.G.Y' Donald Fagen



Julia, Steve and bridesmaids 17th November 2001





### Sayings of 'Bosun' Steve

#### On being introduced to the music of John Coltrane

One day I may grow up to love such music, but I will always have severe doubts about you for recommending it!

### On pride

Is a little of it so deadly, d'you think? It's hard to think of anyone who's in any way interesting, who doesn't have any pride – by which I mean 'consciousness of self' – but maybe we are talking of excessive pride...?

#### On life's little difficulties

One only has to ask oneself, "what would dear old Ollie Reed do in this situation?" and life's decisions become a simple bagatelle.

#### On historians

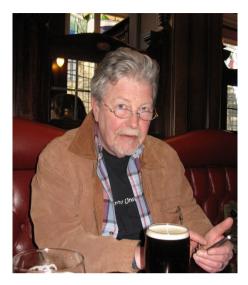
Read Simon Shama's three-volume History of Britain! This man is a flipping genius, and this is the best modern history of your country you're ever likely to get.

### On himself in later years

As a 'professional grumpy old geezer', I'm well aware that I can be brusque/terse/rude/dismissive. I don't think this is something that can be "helped" at this late stage in my life. I'm afraid it's how I am, my style is often very abrasive. As my Mum used to say, "don't make that nasty face - the wind will blow, and you'll stay like that!" But of course I didn't listen...







"Avast me hearties, and love on y'all! Let's continue life's voyage whatever the waves may bring."

Thank you for attending today and for the support and sympathy that you have shown.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Prostate Cancer UK

You are warmly invited to continue celebrating Steve's life after the service at The Dog House, Burcott Lane, HP22 5AR



