

Roger Mattingly
11 April 1940 – 26 March 2021

Roger was born into a long-established, firmly Baptist family in Sudbury, Suffolk. Through his childhood, a strong faith, supported, for instance by regular attendance at Bible classes, developed in him a clear moral compass which remained throughout his life. His experience with the Scouts (he became a Queen's Scout and attended a World Jamboree) no doubt encouraged a sense of serving the wider good. Here, surely, was the sound foundation of his spiritual journey.

Following university (London School of Economics), where he obtained his social work degree his concern to give practical expression to caring for others led him to be appointed as Assistant Director of Residential Homes (both children and elderly care) in the East End of London where he remained for many years.

Roger later moved to the London Borough of Sutton as Director of Social Services where he remained for twenty years before being appointed as Chief Executive in the same Borough of Sutton. His integrity, his kindness, and his attentive, empowering approach to leadership earned him great respect. One small example: he was noted for remembering the names of all his staff and of their family too; 'a super boss' remembered one colleague.

Although his personal life was sometimes troubled, his love for his children was at the heart of his being. Over the years, annual holidays in France became increasingly important. He loved France and spoke French fluently. Treasured memories for his children and later his grandchildren were shared. 'Fishing, walking, going to village fetes and, of course, eating such delights as warm croissants...' "Dad was often quite serious but his more humorous side came out during the first lockdown when we created a 'Mattingly Family' WhatsApp group and he made funny comments and posted silly photos."

Roger came into membership of the Society of Friends around 1993. One of his sons wrote "It is no surprise to me that he became a Quaker – I think he was one long before he 'signed up'.

In 1994, he moved with Ruth to Acklam in North Yorkshire, Roger taking a position with The Family Fund. Part of his task as Chief Executive was to separate the Fund from Joseph Rowntree Foundation to work directly with the government in building a new independent organisation to 'fill the gaps' that did not fall under the local authority's remit. This involved making decisions about giving grants to families, often in severe need, beyond the reach of statutory sources. He was known for his humanitarian concern to do the best, within the terms of the Fund, to make a real difference to people's lives. In this and, after his retirement, his involvement with three local Ryedale charities, he showed his continuing passion for supporting young and vulnerable people.

In Acklam, Roger relished becoming part of a village community, and with Ruth, played an active part in community life. Neighbours and local friends, in turn appreciated the convivial, open-minded sharing which characterised their social life. Roger's quiet good humour, intelligence and gentle wit charmed his new friends. He loved to play Bridge and enjoyed playing the saxophone until illness prevented. Family and Friends particularly remembered Roger and Ruth's joyful meeting for worship for marriage at Malton Meeting House.

As a Friend, over the years Roger was appointed, in succession, to almost every role in the meeting. He is remembered as an effective Local Meeting Clerk in Malton and served as Clerk of Area Meeting (AM) Finance and Property Committee for some years. During this time he worked with the AM Treasurer to start an important process of change which led to the unifying of AM's complex finances and to begin to build an ethical base for banking and investment decisions.

Beyond AM, his wisdom and experience of public service proved valuable when he became Clerk to the Board of The Retreat in York during a particularly challenging time. He also served on the Mental Health Review Tribunal at the Retreat. He later joined the North Yorkshire Advisory Group overseeing the introduction of Circles of Support and Accountability to the area. Open-minded, looking to support the best in people, being prepared to challenge when necessary, his clear and wise contributions were much appreciated.

In 2015, a serious fire completely destroyed a family-owned building in the centre of Sudbury. This devastating event caused him and his family great distress. Roger, toiled unsparingly for five years, working his way through the complexities of insurance claims, regulations of all sorts and the design and commissioning of rebuilding. His tenacity, for instance, in ensuring that the new building was faithful to the town's heritage cost him dear; the stress exacerbating his deteriorating health.

His last few years were dogged by a painful and increasingly debilitating respiratory condition from which, he knew, he would not survive. However, his steadfast refusal to allow illness to interfere with his life and service was especially moving. He bore his increasing disability with fortitude and dignity, making light of his illness and never wanting to talk about it if he could avoid it.

What can we say of him? Although modest and rather private, he had a wonderful ability to seek the best in people. He used his gifts and experience to the full. He was a "pattern and example...walking cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone (Quaker faith & practice 19.32).

Signed on behalf of Pickering & Hull Area Meeting

Held on 9 July 2022 Dilys Cluer, Clerk