

# Donor Pen Sketch and Goodwill Message

Donor Pen Sketch

Donor 1756

Hello

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I have never thought of myself as anything particularly special, but I have always sought to do things for the benefit and blessing of others, even at the expense of myself. My life has been gladly given in the service of others. In fact, I get quite embarrassed when talking about myself or the things that I have achieved in life. I love to listen to others, to hear about others, and to try and help others wherever I can.

That's what I have been like since I was a child. My mum used to say that I was involved in 'everything but the shop window', particularly when it came to my local church. I sang in the church choir, played the piano and organ for worship, played the church bells, [REDACTED], and led the Sunday School. And when I was older I led children's/ youth/family work across Scotland.

My family have always been very supportive of my work with others, particularly through my work with the local church. My mum's side of the family have always been faithfully involved in the local church, and have encouraged me in my leading of musical Sunday worship, Sunday Schools, and more.

When I was at school I was a fairly well-rounded individual. I achieved good grades in mathematics and physics, as well as English and music. But my main interests have always been in the arts, particularly music and history. I play the guitar, ukulele, violin, church organ, church bells, and piano. The piano is my primary instrument and I have achieved Grade 8 in performance. I was also a concert pianist during my time at University. My 2 Undergraduate Degrees and Master's Degrees have been in arts-based subjects.

My outlook on life is primarily guided by my Christian faith, which encourages me to sacrifice the things that I think are important, and to focus on what is truly important. That means that I need to focus on love, forgiveness, compassion and grace through all things. At times this can be difficult, but this is how I try to live my life day by day: to love, to forgive, to show compassion, and to be graceful in everything that I do.

And this is perhaps what I value most in life: that we would love others as we would wish to be loved ourselves. If we treat others in the way that we would wish to be treated, then we cannot help but show others love, mercy and peace. If we have the vision to treat others, and see others, as we would wish to be treated and seen, then we shall surely live in a better world.

My faith has helped to shape my temperament in life. I believe that I am patient and that I listen actively to all who engage with me. I am also deeply concerned with justice, and I will fight to ensure that all receive equal treatment. Everyone deserves to be loved, equally.

All of this feeds into the job that has chosen me as a [REDACTED] chaplain [REDACTED]. I regularly engage with individuals who feel undervalued, lost and afraid of the future. It is my job, my calling, and my deep privilege to listen, to encounter, and to help those that come to me for support. It is a true honour that countless military personnel trust me with their stories, their lives, and their futures. I will not cease to be thankful that my current role can help so many.

I am focused on my work for most of my waking moments, but when I have time to myself I engage in creative pursuits. I enjoy cooking and baking. I also have a significant love and appreciation of LEGO, take joy in building LEGO sets, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also enjoy gardening and growing my own fruit and vegetables which are used in my cooking. I enjoy reading, particularly non-fiction, and have written my own stories and poetry in recent years. But my main hobby is music. My favourite instrument is the piano and I enjoy playing classical, jazz and blues. I am also part of several acappella choirs, which I find to be a true joy.

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Finally, you might be interested to know what I look like. Well, the Scottish Poet Robert Burns once wrote, 'O to see ourselves as others see us'. My opinion of myself and others opinions are quite different. Whilst I view myself as a 'Where's Wally' stand in, my friends/family/colleagues have described me as 'Henry Cavil/Superman'. The similarities are that I am very tall, slim, dark complexion, and wear thick black glasses. Sadly, despite trying multiple times, I can't fly.

Thank you for all you are.

# Donor Pen Sketch and Goodwill Message

Donor Goodwill Message to Offspring

Donor 1756

Hello.

This moment has been a waiting joy for me, like a well-sealed Christmas present you know you can't unwrap until the right time. And now it is the right time. I don't know when, or if, you are reading this, but what I do know is that you are loved, deeply, and truly. I am sorry that I haven't known you until now, but please know that I have thought of you, prayed for you, and wondered about you every day of your life. You are so incredibly important and valuable to me in all your uniqueness.

I decided to donate for one fundamental reason: I am a Christian and I believe that my faith teaches me to serve others, to help others, and to do whatever I can to bless others in any way I can. My faith teaches that 'the greatest thing is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13). Nothing can be greater than love, and especially in the creation of love. It is the privilege and joy of humanity, and my deep, deep, personal joy, to be able to assist in the creation of love. You were created in love. I hope you always knows that love.

You are love.

For me, life, and particularly the creation of life, is the most important thing in this world. So, there could be no greater gift that I could give in my life, no bigger blessing, no bigger joy than helping in a very small way to create your life. You are born in joy, born in love, and born in wonder. Whoever you now are, thank you for what you do and for who you are.

As you read this you may (or may not) be looking for the great wisdom of Solomon about your future. My hopes, dreams, and prayers for you, are simply this: that you know that you are always loved, no matter what; that you know you have an immense value beyond yourself; and that you know you will never be alone in this world. Your parents wanted you and loved you so much that they brought you into this world. You will always be a gift to so many. That is what I want and pray for your life: that you will be guided by the gentle winds of love blowing in the sails of your life, wherever your journey may take you. It is my prayer that you will live your life, be proud of your life, and seek to show that same love and respect to all around you.

When I was your age, I was shy, awkward and uncomfortable in my skin. But I had a deep acceptance that despite all that, I was loved for who I was. Through all this, I was surrounded by people that loved me for who I was, accepted me and all my faults, and encouraged me to achieve what I could. I do hope that you feel that same love, acceptance and welcome to be who you are. You are amazing. Never forget it.

The most important thing to me is that you know that you are loved, accepted and deeply wanted. Your coming into this world was the best thing in your parents lives, and absolutely the best thing in mine, beyond measure.

In your life, whatever you do, wherever you go, and however long it takes, please know my constant love, my thoughts and my prayers. You were dreamed about, wondered about, and birthed in joy. Thank you for being who are you are. Please continue to be who you are: loved, accepted, blessed.