

David Fitter had been a tertiary for many years. He & his wife Miriam were one of the earlier members of the Hilfield Families Camp, which they & their children attended while their family was growing up.

One of our small group met David in Shirley during the 1970's when he joined the order & David was his novice counsellor. He remembers being welcomed like a long lost son & feeling completely at home.

Many of us first met David at his home in Dolton where he & Miriam opened their home to the Third Order, the parish & anyone else who needed it. They cared for both their mothers in their home during their illnesses, taking turns to go to them when they were in need.

David believed firmly that membership of the Third Order was a vocation. You were called by God. He also believed that all you possessed & all your gifts were held in trust for God & His Kingdom. You were a steward of God's gifts to you.

Whatever David undertook, whether it was as Regional Guardian, Novice Counsellor, his career as a land agent, his work with Devon Wildlife Trust, as churchwarden of his parish churches & caring for Miriam when she was unable to care for herself, David carried it out faithfully with love. He was a good steward for God with a loving heart.

He faced his illness with courage. He once said to us, "I have had a good life, I'm in my eighties, please pray for all the children in hospital with cancer."

Those who attended David's funeral in May this year, agreed it gave a lovely picture of David the family man & there was no doubt about his Christian commitment & love of his Lord.

We in the North Devon Small Group were so blessed & privileged to have known David. He was always there. He was & still is an inspiration to us all. God has welcomed him into His Kingdom. "Well done my good & faithful servant."