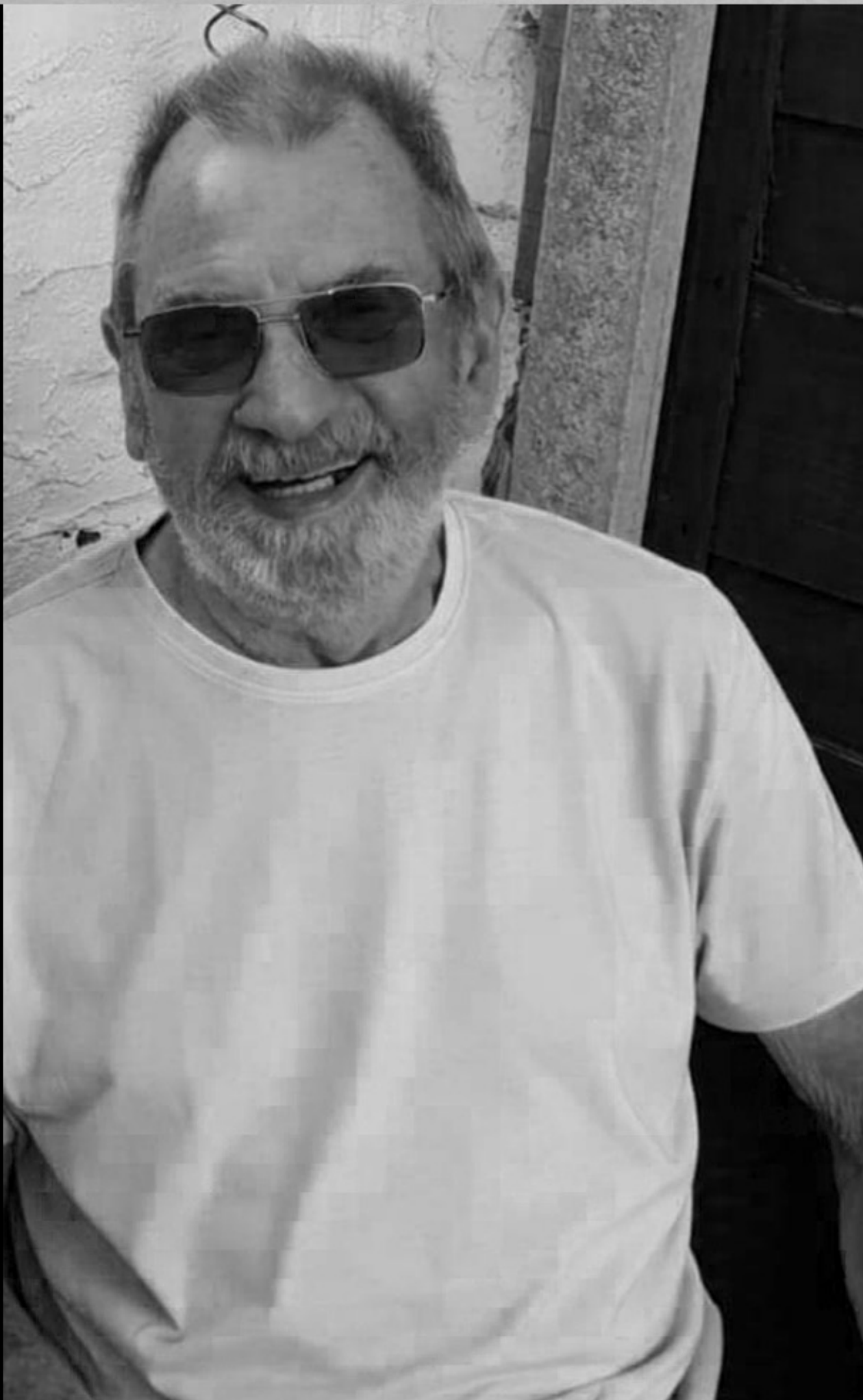




**mark  
edward  
allen**

**mono**



# mark edward allen

A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for  
the Life of Mark Edward Allen  
22.8.1940 - 3.7.2019

## ORDER OF SERVICE

- 1 OPENING MUSIC - Apache - The Shadows
- 2 Welcome
- 3 Tribute
- 4 Memories from Mark Jnr
- 5 Reading - Testament - Read by Julie
- 6 Music - Sweet Caroline - Neil Diamond
- 7 Reflection
- 8 Reflection Music - Deed I Do - Peggy Lee
- 9 The Goodbye
- 10 Closing Words
- 11 Closing Music - Life Without You - Stevie Ray Vaughan

Donations in memory of Mark are to benefit:



*(If sending a cheque, please make it payable to the charity and write on the reverse your name and 'in memory of Mark Allen' and post it to Attwood Funerals, 220 Marlpool Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 5DL.)*

*Service conducted by Kate Spohrer  
at Wyre Forest Crematorium  
on 25th July 2019 at 2.30pm*

Mark Allen was born 22nd August 1940, in Wednesbury. As a youngster his main interest was music being heavily influenced by his mother's musical family, teaching himself to play guitar and trumpet.

To get a marketable trade Mark qualified as a metallurgist and worked in the steel industry by day and gigging at night with his band all around the Midlands.

Encouraged by his parents who bought him a Fender Stratocaster when he was 19 he went on to play with the likes of Bert Weedon, Julie Grant, Susan Maughan, Helen Shapiro and Peter & Gordon, Billy J Kramer, The Dakotas, The Searchers, The Tremeloes and, most famously, The Beatles in 1962.

The Mark Allen Group narrowly missed out on a recording contract because Mark refused to change the line-up of the band. They were exciting times, and the group deserved to make it big. They didn't, but are still remembered 50 years on as being popular, entertaining and talented with a "brilliant", inspirational guitarist.

Mark had two children with his wife Ina, Mark Jnr and Julie who both recall many fond memories including guitar lullabies at bedtime. In time Mark and Ina went their separate ways.

Later Mark met and married Lin, and started a new group called The Mark Allen Trio, with Sweet Caroline being his solo piece. He became self-employed, and set up a business employing others. They moved to Rock, where they embraced village life, and son Stuart was born in 1976.

It was when Mark was down on his luck having lost the business due to the recession, also his marriage and his house that he met Ann, he was living out of his car on her pub car park - 'The Alma'. They became great friends and two years later on 4th May 1983 they couldn't hide their love for each other anymore and decided to live together, they remembered that date by saying 'May the fourth be with you'. They were a perfect match, true soulmates, best friends, and everything to each other.



Their next move was to Cleobury Mortimer. When they married in 1985, Mark gained 3 more daughters: Kate, Sally and Jane; and Ann gained Mark, Julie and Stuart. The next house was a lovely chocolate box Cottage in Neen Sollars. These were very contented years for Mark and Ann.

25 years ago, after much hard work Mark and Ann were able to buy a house in Kidderminster, close to daughter Sally. They missed the countryside, but were compensated by being close to grandchildren Kerry and Emma, who would drop by daily after school for cheese and onion crisps, Kitkats and quality time.

Mark's interests were very varied but music was his main passion, he had eclectic taste. He kept all his guitars, his family were in awe of him playing them skilfully with his calloused fingers... he really could play anything. His ability still shone through on 26th May when he last played guitar.

He had a generous spirit, dropping everything to help someone in need, always there for his family and friends.

Mark was quietly encouraging, never pushy, and shared an especially mutually supportive caring relationship with daughter Jane, who lives in Canada and is also battling a serious illness.

Mark and Ann were proud grandparents of Leah, Kerry, Chad, Emma and Joni, and of great grandson Brody; and were thrilled another was on the way, who will share Mark's middle name of Edward.

Material wealth didn't matter to Mark and Ann; as long as they were together, they were content, always the perfect team, even more so in recent years when both their health declined and they became each other's carer. Mark stoically battled hard against his illness in order to stay with Ann for as long as possible, they kept their sense of humour and always went to sleep laughing, and woke up the same way. They were each other's world and enjoyed 36 glorious years together.

Mark was so unassuming that he probably never realised quite how much he was admired, appreciated, loved and wanted by everyone; not for his talent or his skills, but simply for being himself.

He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.



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THE MARK ALLEN GROUP, Ltd.

LONG PLAY 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  R.P.M.

**MARK ALLEN GROUP**  
(controlled by Electric & Musical Industries Ltd.)  
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