



Celebrating the Life of Mr. Peter Lavis - 25th November 2012

A gathering of about 300 people paid their respects to Staverton stalwart Peter Lavis, who was always known as Pete, during his funeral at St Michael and All Angels Church on November 9. Mr. Lavis, 71, died on October 27 at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, where he had been a patient for a month.

Trowbridge town crier Trevor Heeks led Mr. Lavis's coffin, carried by members of his family, into the church. Mr. Lavis was a popular face in the village, working at the Nestle factory for 35 years. Friends and relatives had to stand at the back during the service, because the church was so full.

Cereal Partners, which now runs the former Nestle factory, presented Mr. Lavis's family with a cheque for a donation to Help for Heroes, a charity for which Mr. Lavis cared passionately. During the service this was presented to Major Eddie Thomas, representing the Armed Forces. The family has also received about £1,000 in donations for Dorothy House Hospice Care.

Mrs Diane Lavis, 67, said: "The support has been fantastic and we'd really like to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy. "We'd also like to pay a special thank you to the Rev Stephen Ball, who has been amazing, as have the undertakers."

Mr. Lavis had a huge interest in sport, managing Staverton Football Club to two league titles in the last two years and seeing them promoted twice. Son Mike Lavis said: "The football team all turned up in their shirts, as a tribute to him, and they brought in a wreath in the shape of a football shirt, which was a nice touch. We went to watch the team soon after dad's death and they held a minute's silence in his memory." After the service, a gathering was held for Mr. Lavis at Staverton Club, a place he regularly enjoyed visiting to play snooker.

Mr. Lavis, originally from Westwood, moved to Staverton about 50 years ago, meeting wife-to-be Diane while working at the Nestle factory. On March 21, 1964, the couple married at St Paul's Church in the village and had their first child, Sarah, now 47, in 1965, followed by Michael, 44, in 1968. Mr. Lavis's hard work saw him rise through several departments at the factory, from milk weigher to culinary production manager for Cross and Blackwell, before he retired in 1994, allowing him to spend more time with his family, in particular his grandchildren, James, 20, and Lily, 13.

Mr. Lavis served for 10 years with the Territorial Army, rising to the rank of sergeant and earning the freedom of Devizes with the 1st Wessex Regiment. He enjoyed playing many sports and represented teams in football and cricket. He will be remembered for his dedication to his village, which he served as chairman of governors at Staverton CofE Primary School, chairman of the parish council and was the organiser of many village events. He had a huge interest in local history and wrote The Book of Staverton, published in 2002, A History of St Paul's Church, Staverton, published in 1996, A Century, in 1998, and The Millennium Tapestry in 2000. His skills were rewarded during his time writing for the Nestle Magazine, taking the correspondent of the year title in 1992.

Mr. Lavis's biggest passion was for his family, whom he loved dearly.

[This is Wiltshire](#), 25 November 2012