My Mum (Lydia Handscomb) died 6pm Sunday 24th August.

She went to Homerton Hospital Tuesday for a routine procedure, but there were complications, and she became increasingly ill. Thursday evening she had to have an emergency operation. She never woke up again.

Her family were with her when she died – me, Scarlet and Georgie – her granddaughters, and Neil, her really close friend.

The first week in August we all had a holiday together in Cornwall, mum, her granddaughters, her great granddaughter Leilah, misty the dog, and me. We had a fantastic time together, and did all sorts of impossible things. (Like the day I pushed her up a hill and we had to be rescued by the coast guard!)

The staff at Homerton Hospital were fantastic with her, and did everything they could to make her comfortable and meet her needs.

There was always a visitor with her, and she enjoyed their funny stories, and laughed lots at a video of a dog jumping up (again & again & again) at a table desperate to get at some food.

Whilst I’m sad for my loss, and the loss for her family and friends, I am not sorry for Lydia. Life was increasingly hard for her, and with her health getting worse she was scared of what the future would bring.

She died relatively quickly, and peacefully, surrounded by laughter, family and friends.

Mum lived life to the full, helped those who needed her support, loved and respected all animals, and was passionate about nature with a particular appreciation for trees, Valentines Park (her second home) and Kew Gardens. We will miss her.

If you want to make a donation in her memory, there are three charities she wants you to support:

* The World Land Trust (WLT) – who buy natural land in danger of being destroyed, then give it to local charities to keep natural forever, protecting the nature and trees she had such respect for.
* The Jewish Deaf Association (JDA) – who supported her so much. She thought very highly of the staff and volunteers.
* The Dr Hadwane Society – they fund research to replace research on animals, so that the animals she loved don’t have to suffer.

You can make donations online to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DarrenTH> and I will share the money equally between the charities.