

# CHRISTIAN PHILIP TEILO BROWN

BA OBE KSG MOC

1964-2018



Christian was born on 17th August 1964 to Alan and Claudine. He spent his first few years in Crickhowell and Abergavenny. Four years later, his brother Philip was born.

He developed a lifelong love of the outdoors. At an early age, he learned to shoot and fish; skills which followed him throughout his life.

He was educated at Llanbedr Primary School, Moor Park and Downside. Christian enjoyed school more for its social function than as a seat of learning. Musically, Christian didn't necessarily flourish but he took to an instrument where enthusiasm and energy were perhaps as important as technical expertise: the drums!

Christian's academic career was patchy. He excelled when he was interested in a subject. Despite this, he did well enough at his exams to be accepted into Leeds Trinity University to read English and Media Studies. He also joined the Leeds University Territorial Army Unit; a keen recruit, he could be a trifle insubordinate, but his ability to make anyone and everyone laugh more than made up for it.

During this time, Christian had the first of his several Fiat Pandas. Rarely clean, these wonderful cars were inevitably full to the gunwales and were the transports of delights for many adventures!

After university, Christian worked at Saatchi & Saatchi in Media Planning in London

Later on, he secured employment as the PR Manager for Avon and also worked as the head of PR for Sudeley Castle. He loved the history and was often seen parading in chainmail.

Finally, Christian found a job which spoke to his passion when he joined the Virgin Airship and Balloon Company. Christian undertook a baptism of fire from that point onward, and soon learned that sleep in the ballooning industry was a luxury and that imbibing champagne at 6am, more or less compulsory. It was like leading a duck to water. However, there was an infinitely constructive synergy between his boundless frenetic energy, positive attitude and skills at being able to cajole unwilling journalists and TV crews out of bed at ludicrous times of the day with promises and bribes of rides, breakfasts and burnerfests.

The expertise he built up there was something he continued to use throughout the rest of his career. He transitioned that into a broader consulting role setting up LSBPR (Lord of St Brides' PR) and continued to promote and pioneer ballooning, whether this was the highest ever balloon flight, or skimming Loch Ness looking for the famed monster.

Through all of this was Christian's ability to build amazing relationships with key stakeholders, particularly the media. Ultimately, this led to him being awarded The Freedom of the City of London for his work in Ballooning.

Christian met and married Monica in 1997 and in 2002 their son Gabriel was born. Moving back to Wales, Christian started to become more involved in local projects, whether it was for pure fun like the Clytha Hill Shoot, or becoming involved in a variety of good and charitable causes.

By the time Christian became involved with the Archdiocese, he had already been awarded the OBE for his voluntary work.

Being a passionate supporter of local communities and charities, he had been an active member of Llanover Community Council, helped set up the Abergavenny Volunteer Bureau, and a facility for the youth of Abergavenny to partake in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme. He was involved in the charity 'Abergavenny Relief in Need' and in the development of St Michael's Centre at Our Lady and St Michael's Church in Abergavenny.

With the Archdiocese, Christian was a major player in the development of both the Cornerstone at the Cathedral and Newman Hall for the University Chaplaincy.

He served as a trustee of the archdiocese for two years, proving to have unparalleled skills in negotiating the Archdiocese through the application process to receive a HLF grant of £1.1 million to renovate the Ebenezer Chapel into the magnificent facility that it is today. He worked tirelessly for two years to make sure that everything ran smoothly with the project. This culminated in the Cornerstone being officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales in December 2016.)

Christian was awarded a Papal knighthood, KSG for his contribution to the Archdiocese.

Christian also became enthused and actively involved with The Antarctic Heritage Trust, culminating in a visit to the territory. He supported the Army Benevolent Fund, Abergavenny Food Festival, Abergavenny Arts Festival, Pontypool Race Football Club and also became involved with the charity Music in Hospitals and Care.

In 2006 was invested into The Military Order of the Collar of St Agatha of Paterno. He rose to become the Prior of the English-speaking section, recently retiring.

He had a passion for literature, particularly poetry, and always loved the outdoors. He relished anything of a historical nature, particularly where he found it around Monmouthshire.

Christian loved socialising and meeting new people. A vivacious extrovert, he could make friends in any setting. He drank 'life to the lees' and never stopped learning and exploring.

He was a prolific traveller sending large numbers of postcards usually just signed 'Lord of St Brides' or later 'OBE'. Always a wonderful reminder that we were all in Christian's thoughts as much as he was in ours.

He died 29th May 2018 at the age of 53 and was laid to rest at St Mary's Churchyard at Llanvair Kilgeddin overlooking the Usk Valley that he loved so much.

(Visit [lsbpr.com](http://lsbpr.com) 'Remembering Christian' more tributes)