

Free Press

freepressseries.co.uk

Dear Friends,

Without question, the most popular Thought of mine during the almost three years I used to write a similar column for *The North Devon Gazette & Advertiser* all those years ago was the one I wrote after having to say goodbye to our black Labrador Sheba when she was almost 15 years of age. So many dog lovers wrote to me and sympathised after that article.

Now Margaret and I have had to be cruel to be kind to our Zoe, our brown and white collie springer, with whom we were privileged to spend 14 fantastic years and who has now gone to dog heaven at 16 years of age, no doubt to join Sheba and all those other doggie friends of hers.

For the first time ever, I saw a dog of ours not only to the vet's front door, but I stayed with her right to the end, talking to her, stroking her, looking at her as she looked at me and gave me a little lick.

There are some things in life you never forget, and this was one of those mo-

ments. Her tail kept wagging, as if to say, "it's okay, I understand", and appreciating the attention of the vet, his assistant and me, her 'master'.

A small memorial site has been created at the manse, in the back garden, by the play house, where Zoe used to love to lie and listen to the children in the school playground just behind the fence. And Margaret and I often stop there for a moment of reflection. Those moments are simple but profound.

With her master, Zoe wrote three little books. Best-sellers they never became, and the last one is not even in print but available only on Kindle, or - with the first two - as an e-mail attachment from me, if you wish. Free. On pwandersen@btinternet.com Many people have read her little books and found comfort in them and Zoe and I ask no more than that. None of this is about earning money.

So bless you, Zoe, and thank you from 'Mum' and 'Dad' for all the happy memories.

Thought for
the weak



with the Rev Preben
Andersen

Rev Preben Andersen