





## Ansell Talbott

By Keith and Jasmin Talbott  
Birmingham, April 2024





**Jasmin**

My husband's name was Ansell Lorenzo Talbott. He was born in St Thomas, Jamaica 27th of May 1954.

**Keith**

He came to England in 1962. He came before my mum. He came here when he was very young.

**Jasmin**

I was born in Barbados, and I came here in 1962. I was about seven when I came. My mum brought me over here for the possibility of a better life. Over there was hard for her, so she brought us over. It was horrible here when I arrived. There was smoke coming out of the houses. It smelled. It was this raw smell. I had never experienced anything like that.

And I remember when we first saw snow, we were scared. We had never seen snow before. We were scared to walk on it. And it was freezing cold. I remember getting chilblains on my feet. I used to get the comb or the brush and you know, scratch it. And the more I did that, the more they itched.

I didn't meet Ansell until years after I got here. He was ten years older than me. I met him in Summerfield Park when I was still at school. He told me afterwards that he used to watch me and he used to say to his friend, "I'm going to marry her one of these days." But this one day he said to his friend, "I'm going to talk to her today." And that's what he did. I always walked with my friend from school through the park because it was a shortcut. And he did talk to me. We had some bula cake and a drink together. I had never tasted it before.

**Keith**

Bula cake is like a bread cake. It's got spices like ginger, and it doesn't taste like bread. It's got a cake flavour with a kind of bread texture.





**Jasmin**

At the time I never tasted it before. And he had it for his lunch and he had some kind of drink. And then it was time for him to go on the bus because he drove the bus back them. It was a red bus, a Midland Red. He had a conductor with him with one of those old ticket machines.

**Keith**

My dad could drive anything, and I got that from my dad. I've got every licence - bus, lorry, car. My dad even got a crane licence. He could operate those big crane on the docks that takes the containers off the ship and puts them on the truck.

**Jasmin**

The only license he didn't have was the train. He said it made his head go funny, so he didn't bother with the train.

He went and saw my mum after a while. He was old-fashioned. He came and asked my mum. And one day he damaged his foot. He must have stumbled off the bus and he had a bandage on it. And he came and asked my mum if I could come and look after him. And I did, and I never went back to my house after that.

At the time, my mum said, "No." She didn't agree with it. And my uncle talked her around. He said, "What can you do? There is nothing you can do. Two people in love, there isn't anything you can do." And I remember she called social service on me. And the police. But in those days what could she do? She couldn't do anything. And then eventually she ends up loving him as a son-in-law.

We got married in 1980. We lived together for nine years before then. We got married in 1980 and moved here to this house in 1981. We got married at the Sandon Road Methodist Church.





### **Keith**

I was born in 1972 so I was eight when they got married. And I'm five years older than my brother. So my brother was about three at the time. When I see the pictures I remember a little bit of the wedding. I remember when my mum and dad came out of the service and were having their pictures taken.

### **Jasmin**

Before we lived here we lived in a council place, 507 City Road.

### **Keith**

I remember living on City Road. I went to nursery and school on City Road as well. So my life just consisted of City Road at that time. The early memories I have of my dad are that he was always at work and so I used to go to nursery. Growing up I just remember going to the nursery and going home because my parents were always at work. My dad went to work at six in the morning. My mum used to go to work at half-past seven. And I used to get dropped at the nursery. And then my mum would pick me up and then it would just be me and my mum at home until my dad came home. My dad would come home at 6pm. I'd see him briefly but he was tired.

He'd watch the news religiously every day, have dinner and then go to sleep. We couldn't talk when the news was on because he wanted to hear it. I'm like that myself now. I watch the news religiously and I don't like noise disturbing me when I'm listening to the news.

### **Jasmin**

I always did part-time work. Nursing. I never did full-time. That's the only job I ever did. I liked it then but I wouldn't go back. I wouldn't encourage anybody to do it now. At the time I just liked helping people and seeing them get well at the end. Seeing them get better and go back home.

### **Keith**

My dad was a hard worker. He stayed on the right side of the law. He was very proper in how he did things. He would always say, "If you're going to do something, then just do it right and don't cut corners. Do it right because then you're not going to get any problems." And I follow that and he hasn't done me wrong.







Mr. & Mrs. K. Griffiths  
request the pleasure of the company of

.....  
at the marriage of their daughter

Jasmin Margareta  
with

Mr. Ansell Talbott

at Sandon Road Methodist Church,  
on Saturday, 12th July, 1980, at 3 p.m.  
and afterwards at  
The Unitarian New Meeting Hall,  
Ryland Street, Ladywood, Birmingham.

507 City Road,  
Edgbaston,  
Birmingham, 17.

R.S.V.P.

### Keith

My dad's vice was the betting shop and bingo. The horse racing. Horses and bingo, that was his thing. I couldn't understand it, that's a part of him that I never got. I'm not interested in the betting shop whatsoever because it's hard enough for you to earn a pound and then to give it away to the betting shop, I can't deal with that. But my dad would always say, "I'm going to win next week." I don't know if he won but he just believed he was going to win.

### Jasmin

When he actually won something he used to keep the money aside and when we had a bill to pay he would always use it to pay the bill. I remember when he went to Jamaica to bury Auntie, I was at a loss because I didn't know how to pay a bill. He did everything like that at the time so I was at a loss, I didn't know what to do.

### Keith

Auntie is my great aunt and she was my dad's auntie. She brought him here and she was like a mother figure to him. I've never met my dad's mum. She came from Panama and my dad's dad came from Jamaica. I've got pictures of my grandma but I've never physically met her. So I used to call my great aunt 'Auntie'. She was like my grandma and she would spoil me. I remember she had a Stag car. It was a big expensive car but I don't even remember her driving it.

### Jasmin

If she wanted to go somewhere Ansell would drive it as she wouldn't drive it.

### Keith

Her name was Auntie Cynthia we used to call her Mrs Math. So she was his auntie and my great-aunt. She was a nurse, and she was also a midwife. She didn't have any kids and she lived by herself and I was always around there. She guided my dad morally.









### **Jasmin**

When she died Ansell took her body home to Jamaica to be buried. I didn't go with him, I couldn't go at the time.

### **Keith**

My dad worked Monday to Friday. He used to work for a company called Freightliner. That's my first earliest memory. And he worked there for decades. So my dad used to work Monday to Friday. Then he'd come home, rest a couple of hours, get changed, and go to drive the bus. He'd go to the bus, finish that on Sunday, come home from work, eat dinner, sleep, and go back to Freightliner on Monday morning at six o'clock. He was like a machine. So I didn't see him very much.

He liked interacting with people. He was definitely a people person. He liked bus driving because you have to interact with people. He stopped being a lorry driver after he got a bad back, but he still did the bus driving. He loved that so much that he got me a job there. I did it for two years but they had a thing called split-shifts. I did that for two years but I didn't like those shifts.

I don't remember my dad having time off work in my whole life. The only time he stopped was when he was sick and he couldn't go in.

I call my dad Jesus. My mum and dad are like chalk and cheese. With Dad, if someone slapped him on his cheek he'd give him the other the one to slap. But my mum would get on top of him for that say, "You have to stick up for yourself". She's the iron lady and my dad's the soft guy. I'm a product of the two of them, people can't walk over me but I'm a nice guy too. But sometimes my dad, he was just too nice. If you ask anybody about my dad they'll say, "He's the nicest man they've ever met." Sometimes people would take advantage of him so my mum would be there to keep him in line.





### **Jasmin**

Sometimes he would lend somebody money and then they don't give him back to him. He would just leave it and say, "God will deal with them" and he would just forget about it.

### **Keith**

The most important thing for my dad was providing for his family. The only way he needed to do that was to go to work and he did that religiously. Because my dad had quite a few siblings, and his mum and dad were over there in Jamaica, his family was fractured. So when he came here and created his own. And he cherished our family.

### **Jasmin**

He had a hard upbringing.

### **Keith**

He came here and he was in the wilderness and if it wasn't for his great aunt he'd have had nobody. He had one cousin called Leslie and they were best buddies. When my dad passed away Leslie passed away a year later. I think his heart was broken.

### **Jasmin**

Leslie died of a broken heart when Ansell died. Leslie and him were best buddies and they grew up together. They ate off the same plate and when they were young then slept in the same bed. They were like brothers.

### **Keith**

I have one brother and one sister. My brother's name is Kenneth, and my sister's name is Nicole. My brother's five years younger than me and my sister's about 15 years younger than me. Now my dad has passed, in a way, I have to be the man of the family because I'm the one with the most history. If my brother or sister wants to know anything, that's on me. Because I'm the one that's going to know. Because I've been there from the start. I've seen everything, and I know all the family members.









**Keith**

This house we are in now, I remember when me, my mum and my dad came here. This was just the footprint, it wasn't built yet. I'll never forget it. And when we came here, my brother went to that primary school at the top of the road.

**Jasmin**

Ansell liked his cars.

**Keith**

He had a Volvo. He kept that car until he couldn't fix it any more. We had to say to him, "Dad, get a new car." He wouldn't admit it. But, for Dad, Vauxhall was his favourite.

**Jasmin**

Yes, Vauxhall. All Vauxhall cars.

**Keith**

He had a Cortina once, I'm sure he got that as a rental. I don't know where he went in it, but it was a Cortina Ghia. And then he went back to Vauxhall straight after and got a Chevette. Finally, when he fell out of love with Vauxhall, because they must have made a model that he didn't like, he got a Volvo. They're built to last. That one lasted. You couldn't get parts for it any more. So we had to get rid of it.

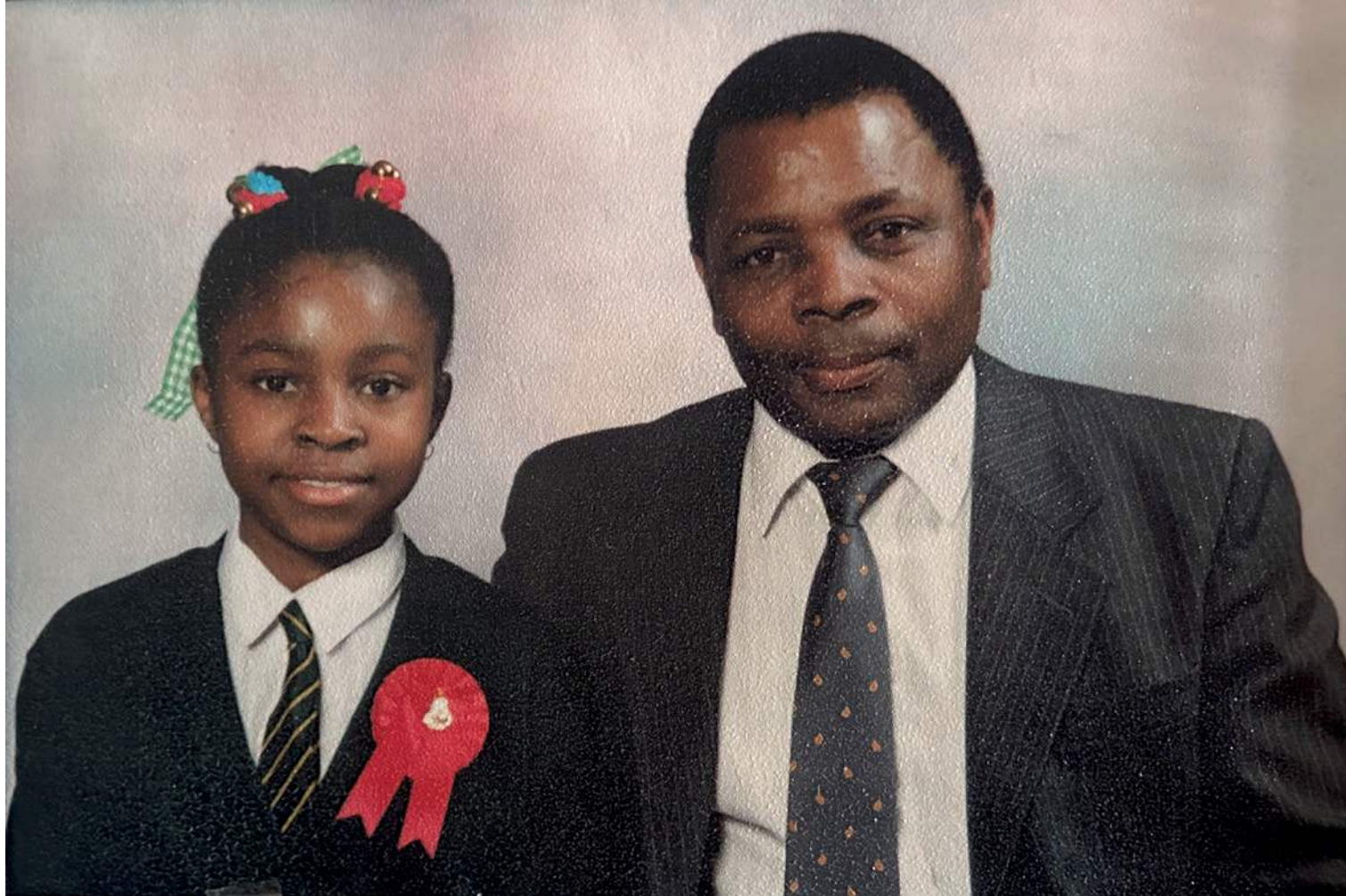
**Jasmin**

He knew everywhere in England. You only had to say to him, "Ansell, can we go somewhere?" He knew everywhere and how to get there.

**Keith**

We didn't used to have any holidays with him as he didn't have any time. He was busy working. I don't remember my dad having a holiday.





**Jasmin**

Me and Ansell went to Barbados and Jamaica twice. That's the only time we had a holiday. But it was work, work, work, work. He loved his work. And he used to say "If you say you can do something but you haven't got the papers to prove it, as far as I'm concerned, you are not qualified." He would say that If you say you're a builder, you're a plumber, you're an electrician, you haven't got the papers to prove it, as far as he's concerned, no, you are not.

**Keith**

And I can't wrong him because everything I've done, I've done it the right way. I've got my papers.

**Jasmin**

He also joined the police, he used to be a special constable.

**Keith**

He had a strong, law-abiding side. I think he always wanted to wear that uniform and do that job, to be able to say that he's done it. Because he's a people person, that was ideal for him. Walk around and mingle with people and speak to them. He loved it.

**Jasmin**

But what he hated was having his picture taken. That was the one thing that he hated. "Don't take my picture" he'd say. I've got pictures of him, but he hated it.

**Keith**

He was very methodical and set in his ways. But his ways were set in the right way. For me, I feel like I'm a mirror image of him. Because of the things he did that I do now. And I haven't set out and said, "I'm gonna do it like this." It's just how my brain works. My kids will say to me, "Dad, you're always at work." And it reminds me of what I used to say to my dad. But I can't help it.





**Keith**

For me, my dad was the perfect dad. I can't wrong him about anything. I feel like, subconsciously, I'd probably model myself on him. I don't see anything wrong with that. He was a good man. He'd give you anything.

I work Monday to Friday and then on the weekend, I'm at Aston Villa. A while ago I got knocked over by a bus, by the City Hospital here. I broke all my bones on this side then I was off work for two years as I used to be a bin man. And I had to get rehabilitated. And after two years, Aston Villa were the first people to give me a job. So I've never left it. I've been there for 15 years now. My other job is with Initial Medical. I work with clinical waste and clinical replenishment. I can't see myself doing anything else. I couldn't work in an office because I'd find that boring. It's not active enough for me. I like to be out and about, mixing with people And that's why I do the jobs I do. And now I'm thinking it's like my dad was.

**Jasmin**

He'd make sure things were right. And he never talked bad about people either. If something happened to do with someone else, he would say "You know what? Let him go." That's it. He never kept a grudge. He would just get on with it. Move on.

**Keith**

I find it hard how he did it because I can't. I get that from my mum. I can't just do that every day. Because I'm not Jesus. But my dad was a living Jesus.

**Jasmin**

I miss Ansell terribly. I miss the company. We used to go out. You know, he'd say, "Come on, Greta, let's get out of the house and go for a drive somewhere." He called me 'Greta' because my middle name is Margareta. They used to call us Ansell and Gretel.





### **Jasmin**

We used to go anywhere we wanted to go. Anywhere at all. Sometimes we'd just go out in the country for a drive. And on the way back we'd just stop and have a drink or something. Perhaps we'd go down to see his family in Rugby. He knew everywhere, there was nowhere you could tell him that he did not know. He never opened the A-Z and looked at it. He just knew where he was going.

Something else I miss is that he used to buy the mirror newspaper every day. He used to sit and he would read all the newspaper out to me. The only page he never read out was the horses. He loved horses, but I'm not interested in horse racing. He would say to me sometimes, "Greta, pick a horse." And he'd back it. And sometimes it would win. But I'm not that interested.

When he first passed, I used to take the newspaper to him. He passed on his birthday in 2015. We had a proper funeral. I viewed his body. And I kissed him. We used to go to the funeral parlour and see him. Nine years ago, but it seems like yesterday. We still take flowers.

I know he's here. I talk to him if I'm going out. I tell him I'm going out. When I come back in, I tell him I'm back. It's because he's here. I miss him. You have to ask yourself the question, why? But nobody knows that, do they? Why did he have to die?

### **Keith**

It's just so difficult. It hurts that I never got to spend time with my dad. Because he retired but then he got sick. I think he retired when he was 70 and a half. So he worked late into his life.

### **Jasmin**

He worked right up to the end. And then he stopped working and he got sick and passed away of cancer.

### **Keith**

He kept it from me because he didn't want me to worry. That's what he said to me. One day I was here these two were saying they've got to go to hospital for an appointment. I'm saying, "What appointment? I'm coming with you then."





So we are at the QE and we went into this doctor's room. The doctor asked my dad if it was all right to speak in front of me. And then he says, "You've got prostate cancer. You've got a couple of months to live."

And I had to process all that in those two seconds there and still try and talk to my dad and my mum. When I came out of there, I felt a bit of resentment because I thought, "Why didn't you tell me sooner?" Because I could have spent that time with him to do something. Because I can't get it back now. My dad went downhill from that day. I couldn't take him anywhere or do anything with him. And I knew it was serious when he stopped driving. My dad drove a car all his life and it was the first time I had seen him not drive. My mum had to drive him. He never drove a car again.

This hurts me even now. I never got to do things I wanted with my dad. The only thing I remember when I was young, he'd take me to my cousins. As an adult, I never got to do anything with my dad because he was always working, and I was always working. And when he retired, I thought, well, now's my chance. When I see other people with their dads, it's hard because I say to myself, "That should have been me and my dad doing that. And I'm never going to get that chance." Sometimes I just think it's unfair.

Sometimes I wish my dad had sent me a voicemail because I haven't got his voice. I've got his phone but there's no voice on there and I can't hear him again.

#### **Jasmin**

God, he knows what he's doing. He does. I can't argue with him. I always said if there was a ladder, you know, I would climb up the ladder. Climb up the ladder and bring him home. But there's no such thing. I believe he's here with me now. He always looked after me.

#### **Keith**

If I could guarantee that if I died tomorrow and I'm going to go to him, I'd happily do that. My dad would want me to be the best I can be. That's what I do now. To be successful.

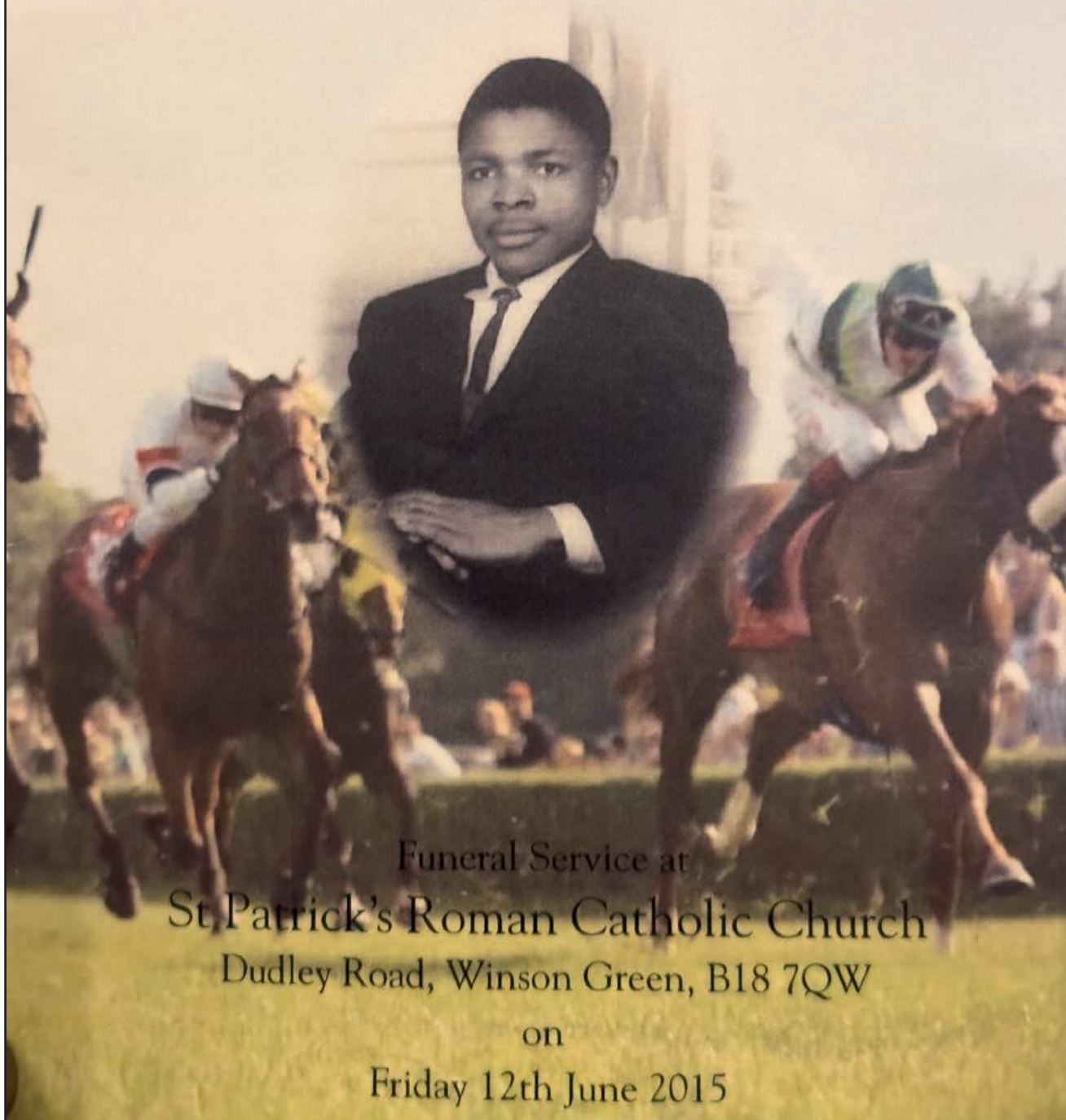






Thanksgiving Service for the Life of  
*Hansell Lorenzor Talbott*

Sunrise: 27th May 1944 – Sunset: 27th May 2015



Funeral Service at  
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church  
Dudley Road, Winson Green, B18 7QW

on  
Friday 12th June 2015