

## James Simon's Body Interred with Cheon Il Guk Holy Earth

Matthew Huish  
January 21, 2017



For the first time in the history of the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland, the Cheon Il Guk Holy Earth was used during the won jeon (burial) ceremony for James Simon. This was the first occasion, since the Holy Gifts of Cheon Il Guk were bequeathed to all blessed families, at which the Holy Earth could be used. The ceremonies associated with ascension can be unfamiliar to any Unificationist family who has not been involved such ceremonies in the past, and this new step added another level of unfamiliarity. Nevertheless, Shane Simon, who sprinkled part of the contents of the Holy Earth jar onto his father's coffin on behalf of his mother Joan, performed the task respectfully and with dignity.



After a short seong hwa (ascension) ceremony in South Wales, James Simon's won jeon ceremony took place on a crisp and dry winter afternoon on the estate at Stanton Fitzwarren. People had come from South Wales, Bristol and London, as well as locally, to attend the ceremony. James looked very suave in his seong hwa photo, a picture which was originally made for an album he had released earlier in his life. The brightly coloured flowers contrasted against the overcast and slightly muddy conditions. Befitting of James' musical background (and perhaps because of the presence of some Welsh voices) the singing provided a powerful send-off for James' spirit as his body was laid to rest.

James Simon was born on 21st April 1937 and ascended on 31st December 2016. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and sons Shane and Desmond.