

'He was a total legend and buzzing to be a dad' - Tributes paid to Teessider who died in Hong Kong

Teacher Christopher Baines died in February :: His daughter Mieya Baines was born just 12 weeks later

[Toni Guillot](#)

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The wife of a much-loved Teesside teacher has paid tribute to her “best friend and soul mate” who was desperate to become a dad.

Danielle Baines said it was “love at first sight” when she met Christopher ‘Dyke’ Baines in 2006.

The pair, from [Acklam](#), hit it off straight away and Danielle, who was working as an English teacher in Hong Kong at the time, decided to move back home so they could make it official.

“I was visiting home for a week and my friend was trying to set me up with someone,” said Danielle, 33.

“I wasn’t really interested but as soon as I saw Chris I knew it was love.

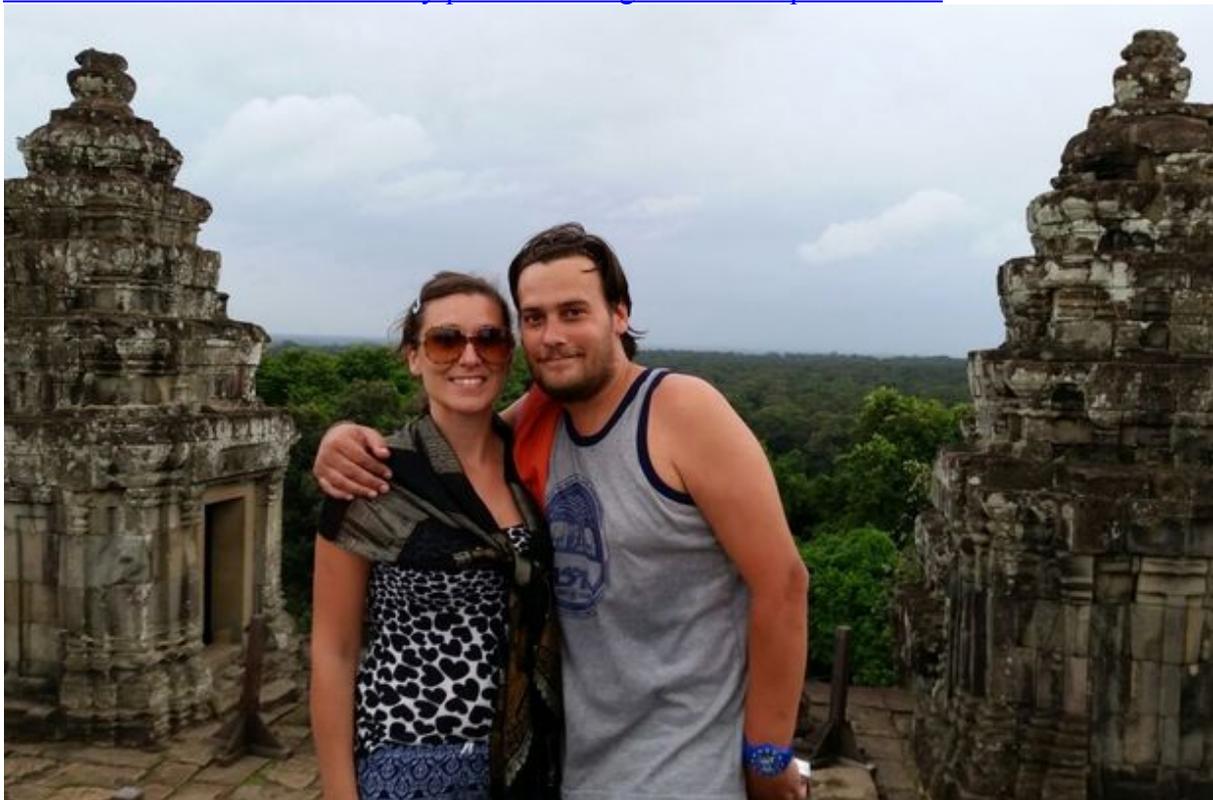
“I had to go back to Hong Kong so we started to write to each other and about six weeks later he paid for me to come home - we were inseparable ever since.”

Christopher was brought up in Acklam with his two brothers Paul and Richard and was a pupil at Green Lane Primary before he moved onto Hall Garth School.

He gained his welding trade and spent time working for machinery companies Lionweld and Caterpillar but soon found the bug for travelling with Danielle.

Boro fan Christopher decided to study FA football coaching at [Teesside University](#) and the couple headed to Hong Kong to live out their dreams as teachers.

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“I had been offered another job out there and Chris had never been, so we decided to give it a shot,” Danielle said.

“Chris mainly taught football - his friends would always laugh because he was never really any good at it. But he was like David Beckham to the kids over there, they thought he was a celebrity.”

The pair married in 2008 and their world was complete when Danielle found out they were expecting their first baby in August last year.

“We had been trying for years so we were both over the moon when I fell,” Danielle said.

Little Mieya Chrissy Patricia Baines, was born on May 4, just 12 weeks after Christopher, 37, was found unconscious at an address in Tsuen Wan, close to where the couple lived.

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Danielle said: “We had already decided on her name before he died. Our favourite place to travel to was Maya Bay, in Thailand, but I changed the spelling to Mieya, to stand for ‘made in England’ as she was conceived when we were visiting home. I added Chrissy in for her dad, and Patricia was Christopher’s mum, who died shortly before we moved to Hong Kong.”

Danielle told how Christopher loved kids and was overwhelmed at the news of becoming a dad.

“He was absolutely buzzing,” she said.

“He literally told everyone he met. All he kept saying is that she was going to be a daddy’s girl, and she is his double. He would have been besotted with her.”

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Life-long friend Andrew Wetherell, 37, described Christopher as “the funniest person I’ve ever come across” and a “total legend.”

“He had hundreds of friends across the world but there is a group of us who are really close. Losing Chris just doesn’t seem real to any of us.

“He was cheeky and hilarious, he would have us all in stitches.

“He loved living over in Hong Kong, but he did miss home. He was always on Facebook shouting about his beloved Boro.”

Christopher, a keen fisherman, was a massive music fan, his favourites being Oasis’ Live Forever, which was played at his funeral. He also loved the Arctic Monkeys, Babyshambles and house music.

More than £12,000 was raised in just hours to fly Christopher home when he died, and Danielle says the family will be forever thankful for the support.

“We would like to thank each and every person who helped us at such a difficult time. The donations meant we could bring Christopher home and cover his funeral costs. There is a bit left over which will go towards his headstone.”

Senior Coroner Clare Bailey recorded his death as misadventure at an inquest this week.