The prized possession you value above all others… A ruby necklace, earrings and bracelet my husband Jeffrey gave me for our ruby [40th] wedding anniversary in 2006. They’re very special.

The unqualified regret you wish you could amend… Not getting to see my son William sing solo in a choral concert at his prep school when he was 11. I was working. He’s never forgotten it.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions… I would begin with a 3km jog near our home in Cambridge. I’m 68 now and a run sets me up for the day. Then I’d attend a seminar about converting sunlight into fuel at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. I’d join Jeffrey and the boys [sons James, 38, and William, 40, and his four-month-old baby Alexander] at our favourite restaurant, Lucio in Chelsea. I’d have sea bass followed by affogato – their homemade ice cream – which is wicked. I’d go to the RSC theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon in the afternoon to see Much Ado About Nothing, then visit our home, called Writers’ Block, in Majorca for a swim. I’d have dinner at Tempo in Mayfair, making sure I have some Pouilly Fumé wine and lemon tart, then I’d sing in the choir at a performance of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony at the Royal Albert Hall.

The temptation you wish you could resist… Smoking. It’s so tragic to see girls ruining their health. I’d like to show them what happened thanks to his work.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint… Faraday. He created the dynamo and electric motor. I’d like to show him how the protection methods I’ve developed have saved so many women from smoking.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase… That I didn’t get a place at Cambridge University in 1962. It was transformative. I was 26 and he died before I could tell him I was pregnant with William. The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you… To play the organ. The philosophy that underpins your life… To play the organ and teach the words. It reminds me of him.

The song that means most to you… The Victorian religious ballad The Holy City from 1892. My father used to play it on the organ and taught me the words. I was 26 when he died before I could tell him I was pregnant with William.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever… The sadness of my father’s death from lung cancer in 1971 when he was 60. I was 26 and he died before I could tell him I was pregnant with William.

The unending quest that drives you on… To be an expert in whatever I do.

The poem that touches your soul… BCAD by UA Fanthorpe. She was my English teacher at Cheltenham Ladies’ College and a poet. This poem is so subtle and not a word is wasted.

The way you want to be remembered… To be an expert in whatever I do.

The poem that you would like to see on your tombstone… To play the organ.

The philosophy that underpins your life… To play the organ and teach the words. It reminds me of him.

As a giver, not a taker.

The order of service at your funeral… I’d like a service at Great St Mary’s Church at Cambridge University beginning with Bach’s Fugue in E flat. Jeffrey would read from John Donne’s Meditation XVII – if he’s up to it! There’d be a wake at our house in Cambridge.

The way you want to be remembered… To be an expert in whatever I do.

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Next week

• Whatever happened to Rachel Stevens after Strictly? • Bake Off winner John Whaite’s hilarious Cordon Bleu school diary • Jamie Oliver does sweet things with honey • PLUS Britain’s best TV listings

PS… Colin ‘Merlin’ Morgan opens the new Shakespeare’s Globe season in The Tempest. Robert Downey Jr’s back as the flawed superhero in Iron Man 3 – in cinemas from Friday. And Leona Lewis begins a UK tour at Glasgow’s Clyde Auditorium on Friday