Good afternoon everyone.

I’m Emily’s dad, and as those who know me will confirm, I’m a bit shy with microphones, so I’ll keep it brief.

Emily Parker has always been thoughtful and determined.
As a child, if a puzzle was missing a piece, she’d make one that fit.
That same spirit shows today in the way she builds a life, not just a plan.

Then along came Daniel Hughes.
We got to know each other properly over Sunday roasts—where he quietly helped with the gravy, laughed at my dubious jokes, and somehow won the dog’s loyalty in under ten minutes.
Steady, kind, and with that dry, quietly funny way of his—he felt like family long before today.

They met at a summer music festival five years ago—Emily came home sunburnt and smiling and said, “Dad, I’ve met someone who listens.”
Two years later they moved in together, and I watched them learn the fine art of compromise—mostly about paint colours.
Engaged on a crisp autumn walk in the Cotswolds, they came back with muddy boots, shining eyes, and a plan that felt utterly right.

I love the way they spend their weekends—browsing markets, walking the canal, arguing cheerfully over lampshades and then fixing a wobbly shelf together.
They’re practical and warm; they make each other better without trying to make each other different.

We’re also thinking of Emily’s Gran today.
She would have been so proud—of the woman Emily has become, and of the

good man she’s chosen.

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So, if you would, please raise your glasses—
to love and family,
to our wonderful Emily and her Daniel,
and to welcoming a new son-in-law into the Parker clan.
Here’s to a long, joyful life together.

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