

The Parish of St. Bartholomew, Otford



**FUNERAL NOTES
2009**

We extend our sympathy to you upon the death of your loved one. In our ministry to you we want to:

- help bring comfort, strength and hope at a time of great loss;
- plan a funeral service with you that will be a fitting tribute to your loved one;
- continue to provide care and support over the coming weeks and months as you work through your bereavement.

We hope these notes will help you along the way.

We are here to help you through your time of grief. If you would appreciate a visit from one of our Pastoral Team, please let us know. The office telephone number is 01959 523185. And you will always find a welcome on Sundays at our services.

The Pastoral and Ministry Teams

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Facing up to Death

The death of a loved one raises profound questions about the meaning of life and the hope of heaven. At a time when we feel shaken to the core, we find ourselves reaching out in faith. Jesus himself spoke of God as a loving and life-giving Father: 'the God of the living, not of the dead.' We believe that Jesus' resurrection is the triumph of good over evil and of life over death and he has made eternal life available to us all.

In the Bible there are beautiful and poetic descriptions of heaven. Whilst we cannot say precisely what it will be like we know that we shall delight in the presence and love of God and of the whole company of heaven. Whatever is wonderful about life here on earth is only a glimpse of the glory of the life that is to come.

In the funeral service there will be a reading from the Bible which will speak of the hope of life after death, and give us the assurance of God's continuing care: "underneath are the everlasting arms".

The funeral service will also give an opportunity to offer thanks for the life of your loved one, and in the company of family and friends to be open to the mixture of emotions that his or her death brings. Feelings such as grief, gratitude, sadness, and joy often intermingle.

In all of this, we will be commending your loved one into the hands of God who holds all of us in life and death, the one who is both the source of life and its goal.

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The Funeral Service

The funeral service will reflect the personality of the one who has died and the circumstances of their death. Sometimes, a sense of tragedy is uppermost, especially when it is a young person who has died. When it is the end of a long and fruitful life, the feelings of thanksgiving can be strongest.

There are times when the death of a faithful Christian seems to be the consummation of all they have lived for and the funeral service is a triumphal departure for their true home. As for Christian in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, 'all the trumpets sound for them on the other side'.

Your loved one may have described the sort of funeral they want in their Will. This will be an invaluable framework for planning the service.

The service begins with the minister reading aloud a sentence from the scripture which assure of the Christian hope in the face of death: "Jesus said , 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'" John 11:25,26.

After words of introduction a hymn is generally sung. Then follows the eulogy. This may be given by the minister or a member of the family. After this a psalm is said by everyone. Then comes a Bible reading and the minister will offer words of comfort based on this scripture passage. The readings tell of God's care and the hope of eternal life. Another hymn may follow, and then we turn to God in prayer. After the prayers there may be a final hymn. The culmination of the service comes with the words of commendation by which your one is commended into God's hands in the sure and certain hope of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

With these notes you will find a range of choices for:

- hymns
- psalms
- Bible readings
- prayers
- poems and other readings

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Location of the Service

We encourage you to hold the funeral service in Church. This means that there will be no time pressure in holding the service, and it also means that many local friends will be able to attend. We also hope you will find comfort in the real sense of God's presence in our beautiful historic churches which has been prayed in for generation after generation, stretching back centuries.

These days the majority of people opt for cremation. You may wish to consider whether you would like the service in church before or after the cremation. The advantage of having the cremation service first is that this can be a small and private service attended by just family members and then you can travel back to the church to join with the wider family circle and friends to celebrate the life of your loved one. You can then go straight from this service to whatever reception you may have planned and continue to share in memories and friendship.

The Committal

The interment of ashes will generally take place within a week of the funeral service, and this is attended by family members and perhaps some close friends. In the parish we have a peaceful and beautiful Garden of Remembrance next to our historic church.

If the committal is to be a burial, this will take place straight after the funeral service.

The Book of Remembrance

Some families find it a comfort to mark the anniversary of a loved one's death, and therefore we maintain a Book of Remembrance so that the name of your loved one can be recorded for posterity.

The pages of the books are turned for each day of the year, so you can come to Church on the anniversary of your loved one's death to see their name, to say a prayer, perhaps to bring flowers, and to find comfort in the peace of God's presence.

In addition, as a Church Family, we remember the names of all those recorded in the Book of Remembrance in our prayers on the Sunday preceding the anniversary.

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Practical Arrangements

A member of our ministry team will visit you to talk about all these arrangements and to plan the funeral service so that it is a fitting tribute to your loved one.

The local funeral directors are:-

Welham Jones Funeral Directors
156 London Road
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1DJ
Tel: 01732 742400

Doves Funerals
112 St. Johns Hill
Sevenoaks
Kent, TN13 3PD
Telephone: 01732 740444 (24 hours)

Francis Chappell & Sons
27 London Rd
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1AR
Tel: 01732 450203
Part of Dignity Plc.

Other funeral directors in Kent can be found [here](#)

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Continuing Care after the Funeral

You may find yourself so busy with practical details and arrangements between the death and the funeral that you do not experience the full sense of your loss until later.

Grieving is a natural and important part of coming to terms with and healing this loss and it may continue for several months. As a Church Family we will try to help. We will give you a call six weeks after the funeral to see how you are getting on. This is often a difficult time when the cards and messages of sympathy have stopped coming, and you are just beginning to adjust to life without your loved one.

We will also send you a card on the anniversary of the death of your loved one. And we will invite you to attend a Service to Commemorate Departed Loved Ones which is held in springtime, in the afternoon of the second Sunday after Easter.

There is a fortnightly coffee morning in the Church Centre when you can enjoy the company of friends over a cup of coffee or tea.

In addition, we warmly invite you to join with us Sunday by Sunday as we worship God and celebrate our faith. True comfort is to be found in the promises of Jesus Christ, in the hope of the Resurrection and in the belief that your loved one is safe in the hands of God.

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A SELECTION OF HYMNS SUITABLE FOR A FUNERAL

[Abide with me](#)

[Alleluia, sing to Jesus!](#)

[Amazing grace \(how sweet the sound\)](#)

[For all the saints](#)

[Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father](#)

[Guide me, O thou great Redeemer](#)

[How sweet the name of Jesus sounds](#)

[I heard the voice of Jesus say](#)

[Immortal, invisible, God only wise](#)

[In heavenly love abiding](#)

[Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us](#)

[Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy](#)

[Love divine, all loves excelling](#)

[Love's redeeming work is done](#)

[Make me a channel of your peace](#)

[Now thank we all our God](#)

[O God our help in ages past](#)

[O Jesus, I have promised](#)

[O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder \(How great Thou art\)](#)

[The old rugged cross](#)

[Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven](#)

[The day, thou gavest, Lord is ended](#)

[The King of Love my shepherd is](#)

[The strife is o'er, the battle done](#)

[There is a green hill far away](#)

[There is a Redeemer](#)

[Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son](#)
[To God be the glory, great things he has done!](#)
[When I survey the wondrous cross](#)

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A SELECTION OF PSALMS SUITABLE FOR A FUNERAL

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff--
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills--
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

From Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

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A SELECTION OF BIBLE READINGS SUITABLE FOR A FUNERAL

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day." **John 6:35-40**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard

that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 11:17-27

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

John 14:1-6

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in

turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?"

"Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

From 1 Corinthians 15

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Revelation 21:1-7

THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE DEPARTED

Merciful Father and Lord of all life,
we praise you that we are made in your image
and reflect your truth and light.
We thank you for the life of N ,
for the love he/she received from you
and showed among us.
Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise
to all your servants, living and departed,
that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ.
And we ask that in due time
we may share with our brother/sister that clearer vision,
when we shall see your face in the same Christ our Lord.
Amen

Lord of all, we praise you
for all who have entered into their rest
and reached the promised land where you are seen face to face.
Give us grace to follow in their footsteps
as they followed in the way of your Son.
Thank you for the memory of those you have called to yourself:
by each memory, turn our hearts from things seen
to things unseen,
and lead us till we come to the eternal rest
you have prepared for your people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them,
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant N
and for all that you did through him/her.

Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Father in heaven,
we thank you because you made us in your own image
and gave us gifts in mind, body and spirit.
We thank you now for N
and what he/she meant to each of us.
As we honour his/her memory,
make us more aware that you are the one
from whom comes every perfect gift,
including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.
Amen

God our Father,
we thank you that you have made each of us
in your own image,
and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you.
We thank you for N ,
the years we shared with him/her,
the good we saw in him/her,
the love we received from him/her.
Now give us strength and courage
to leave him/her in your care,
confident in your promise of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Lord Jesus Christ,
you comforted your disciples when you were going to die:
now set our troubled hearts at rest
and banish our fears.
You are the way to the Father:
help us to follow you.
You are the truth:

bring us to know you.
You are the life:
give us that life,
to live with you now and for ever. *Amen*

O God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief and shock
contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ.
Amen

Father, the death of N brings an emptiness into our lives.
We are separated from him/her
and feel broken and disturbed.
Give us confidence that he/she is safe
and his/her life complete with you,
and bring us together at the last
to the wholeness and fullness of your presence in heaven,
where your saints and angels enjoy you for ever and ever.
Amen

Lord God,
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.
Let us find in your Son
comfort in our sadness,
certainty in our doubt
and courage to live.
Make our faith strong
through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Almighty God,
Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort:
deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn,

that, casting all their care on you,
they may know the consolation of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

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PRAYERS FOR READINESS TO LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of our own lives,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen

God, our Father,
we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus Christ
to die for us and rise again.
His cross declares your love to be without limit;
his resurrection, that death our last enemy is doomed.
By his victory we are assured of the promise
that you will never leave us or forsake us;
that neither death nor life,
nor things present nor things to come,
can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Father of all,
by whose mercy and grace
your saints remain in everlasting light and peace:
we remember with thanksgiving
those whom we love but see no longer;

and we pray that in them
your perfect will may be fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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A SELECTION OF POEMS AND OTHER READINGS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN A SERVICE OR IN THE ORDER OF SERVICE

This section has a number of poems and some prose which have been loosely divided up into sections. All of these are suitable for inclusion into a funeral service, or the order of service without necessarily being read aloud. You may also find them a useful way of helping you with your thoughts at this time.

[Remembering with Love](#) [The Peace of Death](#) [For Those Who Die Young](#)

[The Natural Order](#) [The Pain of Separation](#)

Remembering with Love

REQUIEM

UNDER the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie:
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you gave for me:
Here he lies where he long'd to be;
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.

R. L. Stevenson

TO THOSE I LOVE

If I should ever leave you,
Whom I love
To go along the silent way. . .
Grieve not.
Nor speak of me with tears.
But laugh and talk of me
As if I were beside you there.

(I'd come. . .I'd come,
Could I but find a way!
But would not tears and
And grief be barriers?)

And when you hear a song
Or see a bird I loved,
Please do not let the thought of me
Be sad. . .for I am loving you
Just as I always have. . .

You were so good to me!
There are so many things
I wanted still to do. . .
So many things I wanted to say
to you. . . Remember that
I did not fear. . . It was
Just leaving you
That was so hard to face.

We cannot see beyond. . .
But this I know:
I loved you so. . .
'twas heaven here with you!

Isla Paschal Richardson.

DEATH

If I should die before the rest of you,
Break not a flower nor inscribe a stone.

Nor, when I'm gone, speak in a Sunday voice,
But be the usual selves that I have known.
Weep if you must,
Parting is hell.
But life goes on,
So.....sing as well.
Joyce Grenfell

We can shed tears because they have gone;
or we can smile because they have lived.

We can close our eyes and pray that they will come back;
or we can open our eyes and see all that they have left.

Our heart can be empty because we can't see them;
or we can be full of the love we've shared.

We can turn our back on tomorrow and live for yesterday
or we can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

We can remember them and only that they've gone
or we can cherish their memory and let it live on.

We can cry and close our minds, be empty and turn our back
Or we can do what they'd want: smile, open our eyes, love and go on

With my death I have slipped away into the next room. I am I, and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, that, we still are. Call me by my old familiar name; speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference in your tone; wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was; let it be spoken without effort, without the trace of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well. **Henry Scott Holland**

REMEMBER

REMEMBER me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Rossetti

GONE FROM MY SIGHT

I am standing upon the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white
sails to the morning breeze and starts
for the blue ocean.

She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until at length
she hangs like a speck of white cloud
just where the sea and sky come
to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says;
" There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all.
She is just as large in mast and hull
and spar as she was when she left my side
and she is just as able to bear her

load of living freight to her destined port.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone
at my side says, "There, she is gone!"
There are other eyes watching her coming,
and other voices ready to take up the glad
shout;

" Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

Henry Van Dyke

IF I SHOULD DIE

If I should die and leave you
Be not like others, quick undone
Who keep long vigil by the silent
dust and weep.

For my sake turn to life and smile
Nerving thy heart and trembling
hand to comfort weaker souls than thee.
Complete these unfinished tasks of mine
And I perchance may therein comfort thee.

Thomas Gray

The Peace of Death

MARGARITÆ SORORI

A LATE lark twitters from the quiet skies;
And from the west,
Where the sun, his day's work ended,
Lingers as in content,
There falls on the old, grey city
An influence luminous and serene,
A shining peace.

The smoke ascends
In a rosy-and-golden haze. The spires

Shine, and are changed. In the valley
Shadows rise. The lark sings on. The sun,
Closing his benediction,
Sinks, and the darkening air
Thrills with a sense of the triumphing night-
Night with her train of stars
And her great gift of sleep.

So be my passing!
My task accomplished and the long day done,
My wages taken, and in my heart
Some late lark singing,
Let me be gathered to the quiet west,
The sundown splendid and serene,
Death.

W. E. Henley

Goodnight; ensured release,
Imperishable peace,
Have these for yours,
While sea abides, and land,
And earth's foundations stand,
And heaven endures.

When earth's foundations flee,
Nor sky nor land nor sea
At all is found,
Content you, let them burn:
It is not your concern;
Sleep on, sleep sound.

A. E. Housman

For Those Who Die Young

TO DAFFODILS

FAIR daffodils, we weep to see

You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the evensong;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

Robert Herrick

Extract From: **IN MEMORIAM F. A. S.**

Doomed to know not Winter, only Spring, a being
Trode the flowery April blithely for awhile,
Took his fill of music, joy of thought and seeing,
Came and stayed and went, nor ever ceased to smile.

Came and stayed and went, and now when all is finished,
You alone have crossed the melancholy stream,
Yours the pang, but his, O his, the undiminished
Undecaying gladness, undeparted dream.

R. L. Stevenson

The Natural Order

FROM A SONNET

LIKE as the waves make towards the pebbled shore
So do our minutes hasten to their end;
Each changing place with that which goes before,
In sequent toil all forwards do contend.
Nativity, once in the main of light,
Crawls to maturity, wherewith being crown'd,
Crooked eclipses 'gainst his glory fight,
And Time that gave doth now his gift confound.
Time doth transfix the flourish set on youth
And delves the parallels in beauty's brow,
Feeds on the rarities of nature's truth,
And nothing stands but for his scythe to mow:
And yet to times in hope my verse shall stand,
Praising thy worth, despite his cruel hand.

William Shakespeare

CITIES AND THRONES AND POWERS

CITIES and Thrones and Powers,
Stand in Time's eye,
Almost as long as flowers,
Which daily die:
But, as new buds put forth
To glad new men,
Out of the spent and unconsidered Earth,
The Cities rise again.

This season's Daffodil,
She never hears,
What change, what chance, what chill,
Cut down last year's;
But with bold countenance,
And knowledge small,
Esteems her seven days' continuance,
To be perpetual.

So Time that is o'er-kind,
To all that be,
Ordains us e'en as blind,
As bold as she:
That in our very death,
And burial sure,
Shadow to shadow, well persuaded, saith,
" See how our works endure!"

Rudyard Kipling

The Pain of Separation

SONG IX, FROM TWELVE SONGS

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone.
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone.
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum,
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let the airplanes circle, mourning overhead,
Scribbling on the sky, "he is dead".
Put crepe bows 'round the necks of the public doves;
Let traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my north, my south, my east and west;
My working week, my Sunday best;
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song.
I thought that love would last forever, ... I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now, put out every one.
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun.
Put away the ocean and sweep up the wood,
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

W. H. Auden

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MUSIC FOR THE SERVICE

We have put together the following list of music which could be used at funerals within our Parish, and that people have found helpful, refelective, soothing or encouraging. If you click on the underlined names, you will hear a midi track to remind you how the music sounds.

(As you can see most have midi links already, we will be trying to find the missing ones over the next few weeks.)

Music Title	Composer
ADAGIO IN SOL. MIN.	ALBINONI
BIST DU BEI MUR	J.S. BACH
JESU. JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING	J.S. BACH
AVE MARIA	J.S. BACH
ARIOSO	J.S. BACH
SHEEP MAY SAFELY GRAZE	J.S. BACH
ADAGIO FOR STRINGS	SAMUEL BARBER
ADAGIO FROM THE MOONLIGHT SONATA	BEETHOVEN
ADAGIO FROM PATHETIQUE SONATA	BEETHOVEN
PRIERE À NOTRE DAME FROM SUITE GOTHIQUE FOR ORGAN	BOËLLMAN
HOW LOVELY ARE THY DWELLINGS FROM REQUIEM	BRAHMS
ADAGIO FROM VIOLIN CONCERTO IN G MINOR	BRUCH
GOD BE IN MY HEAD	WALFORD DAVIES
SOLEMN MELODY (needs windows media)	WALFORD DAVIES
LARGO FROM THE NEW WORLD SYMPHONY	DVORÁK
CHANSON DE MATIN	ELGAR
ANGEL'S FAREWELL FROM THE DREAMS OF GERONTIUS	ELGAR
NIMROD FROM THE ENIGMA VARIATIONS	ELGAR
APRÈS UN RÊVE	FAURÉ
IN PARADISUM FROM REQUIEM	FAURÉ
PAVANE	FAURÉ
PIE JESU FROM REQUIEM	FAURÉ
SANCTUS FROM REQUIEM	FAURÉ
PANIS ANGELICUS	FRANCK
MORNING FROM PEER GYNT	GRIEG
I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH FROM THE MESSIAH	HANDEL
LARGO	HANDEL

[PIE JESU](#)

AVE VERUM

[O REST IN THE LORD FROM ELIJAH](#)

[ADAGIETTO FROM SYMPHONY NO:5](#)

[GABRIEL'S OBOE FROM THE MISSION](#)

[BROTHERS FROM THE MISSION](#)(needs Real Player)

[TO A WILD ROSE](#)

[AT AN OLD TRYSTING PLACE](#)

[CANON IN D](#)

ARIA

[THE SWAN FROM CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS](#)

[AVE MARIA](#)

[AUTUMNS FROM THE FOUR SEASONS](#)

[LONDONDERRY AIR](#)

[KUM BA YA](#)

ANDREW LLOYD-
WEBBER

MOZART

MENDELSSOHN

MAHLER

ENNIO MORRICONE

ENNIO MORRICONE

MACDOWELL

MACDOWELL

PACHELBEL

NOEL RAWSTHORNE

SAINT-SAËNS

SCHUBERT

VIVALDI

TRADITIONAL

TRADITIONAL
(SCOUTS)