



A Funeral Service in Thanksgiving for
the Life of

Alison Jean Hardwick

14 March 1932 - 18 June 2021



Wednesday 14 July at 12.00pm

Please remember to keep yourself and others safe.

- Wear a face covering
- Maintain 2m distance
- Hand-sanitise regularly
- Use phones for liturgy and giving
- Sing only in our hearts

For full details, please see the separate document Congregation Safety over Covid 19.

Her finely touched spirit had still its fine issues, though they were not widely visible. Her full nature, like that river of which Cyrus broke the strength, spent itself in channels which had no great name on the earth. But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.

From Middlemarch by George Eliot

Before the service, the choir sings In Paradisum from Fauré's 'Requiem'.

The Gathering

Please stand as the coffin is brought into the church, during which the following sentences of scripture are read.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. '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

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 8.38, 39

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.22, 23

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3.16

All shall be Amen and Alleluia
We shall rest and we shall see
We shall see and we shall know,
We shall know and we shall love,
We shall love and we shall praise.
Behold our end which is no end.

St Augustine of Hippo

Welcome and Introduction

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father. Grace and mercy be with you.

We have come here today to remember before God beloved Alison; to give thanks for her life; to commend her to God our most merciful Father and redeemer; and to comfort one another in our grief.

All **Almighty God, you care for us with infinite mercy and justice and love everything you have made. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven; through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Choir

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.
- 2 For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he would not own.
- 3 There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.
- 4 If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

Prayers of Penitence

Please sit or kneel

As children of a loving heavenly Father, let us ask his forgiveness, for he is gentle and full of compassion.

For the times we have failed in our love for God:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the times we have failed to love our neighbour as ourselves:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

For the times we have fallen short of God's glory:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the eternal joy of the kingdom, where we are united with those we love and death has no dominion.

All **Amen.**

Collect

Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

Yes says the Spirit for they rest from their work.

God of the spirits of all people give freely to Alison,
who rests in Jesus, the many blessings of your love,
that the good work you have begun with her here on earth
may now be completed in heaven.

Kind Father in heaven, may we, who remember Alison now on earth,
one day be found fit to share with her the life of the saints in light,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Reading *from Cymbeline, Act IV, scene II* *William Shakespeare*
read by Adrian Putt

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages;
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great,
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;
Care no more to clothe and eat;
To thee the reed is as the oak:
The sceptre, learning, physic, must
All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning-flash,
Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone;
Fear not slander, censure rash;
Thou hast finish'd joy and moan:
All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign to thee, and come to dust.

No exorciser harm thee!
Nor no witchcraft charm thee!
Ghost unlaid forbear thee!
Nothing ill come near thee!
Quiet consummation have;
And renownèd be thy grave!

Reading Kindness *Naomi Shihab Nye*
read by Sally Fletcher

Before you know what kindness really is
you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment
like salt in a weakened broth.
What you held in your hand,
what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

Choir Lord make me an instrument of your peace *John Rutter*

Reminiscence Aunt Alison *by her niece Anna Hardwick*
read by Bronwyn Sanders

Tribute *Sophie Govier*

Choir

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
- 3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Irish, c 8th century translated by Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
versified by Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

Reading John 14. 1-7 *read by Rory Healy*

Jesus said, '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. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Address *Revd Richard Carter*

Prayers *led by Lavinia Anson*

The response to the prayers is:

All Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

At the end:

All **God of mercy,
entrusting into your hands all that you have made
and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people,
we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

All Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Commendation and Farewell

Revd Dr Sam Wells stands by the coffin.

Father we commend to your care our sister Alison, giving thanks for all she brought us. Though now taken from us, let her not be parted from you. May your servant, set free from the bondage of earth, be changed into your likeness, from glory to glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Go forth upon your journey from this world, dear child of God, into the hands of the Father who made you, to find life in Christ who redeemed you, to rejoice in the Spirit who renews you. May the heavenly host sustain you and the company of the redeemed enfold you; may peace be yours this day, and the heavenly city your home.

All **Amen.**

Final Prayers and Blessing *Revd Dr Sam Wells*

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening, into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitations of thy glory and dominion world without end.

All **Amen.**

John Donne (1572-1631)

May God give you
comfort and peace,
light and joy,
in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Blessing Anthem Nunc Dimittis *Burton*

Farewell to Stromness by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies is played as the coffin is carried out.

Please gather in the courtyard behind the church for refreshments after the service. All are welcome.

Alison's family have requested that in memory and thanksgiving for the life of Alison Hardwick any donations should be given to St Martin-in-the-Fields Relief in Need Charity

St Martin-in-the-Fields Relief in Need Charity

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St Martin-in-the-Fields Relief in Need Charity makes small grants to members of the St Martin's community facing emergency financial needs, poverty or destitution. Often the causes may be their status as an asylum seeker, being in poor health or struggling with complex problems in their lives. Relief In Need aims to provide valuable support, not just to make ends meet, but to participate fully in the life of St Martin's. This in turn enriches all who call St Martin's home.



Alison Jean Hardwick, aged 1 year old.

Service conducted by Revd Dr Sam Wells
St Martin's Voices
Directed by Andrew Earis

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