

St Mary's Church

Saffron Walden



A Service of
Remembering and Thanksgiving
for All Souls' Day

*For those who sleep in Christ
Life has changed, not ended*

Sunday 3rd November 2024

at 4.00pm

The Gathering

Minister

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.

All And also with you.

As a father cares for his children:

All so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made:

All he remembers that we are but dust.

Our days are like the grass:

All we flourish like a flower of the field.

When the wind goes over it, it is gone:

All and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures
for ever on those who fear him:

All and his righteousness on children's children.

Prayer of Penitence

**All Forgive God,
in the face of death,
we discover how many things are still undone,
how much might have been otherwise.
Redeem our failure,
Bind up the wounds of past mistakes,
Transform our guilt to active love,
and by your forgiveness make us whole.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Minister

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
At the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
At the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace.
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
At the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
At the end of the day.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Address Judith Hasler

Lay Funeral Minister

The Commemoration

*Naming those who have died, as requested by their families,
we light candles to symbolise the Christian hope of eternal life
in Jesus Christ.*

Love Came First

*Marie Foreman
Celebrant*

You don't move on after loss, but you must move *with*.
You must shake hands with grief, welcome her in, for she lives
with you now. Pull her a chair at the table and offer her
comfort. She is not the monster you first thought her to be.
She is *love*.
And she will walk with you now, *stay* with you now, peacefully.
If you let her.
And on the days when your anger is high, remember why she
came, remember who she represents.
Remember.
Grief came to you, my friend, because love came first.
Love came first.

*from 'Wild Hope' by Donna Ashworth
used with permission from the author*

Funeral Icos

*John Tavener
sung by St Mary's Church Choir*

*during which you are invited to come forward
to light a candle in memory of your loved ones*

Prayers

Concluding with

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesu, Thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver;
let us all Thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then, Thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Blessing

Organ voluntary: **Elegy** George Thalben-Ball



*Please stay for refreshments after the service
There will be a retiring collection for the work of St Mary's Church.*

Lay Funeral Minister Judith Hasler

Director of Music Oliver King

Organist Jeremy Allen



*We are grateful for the support of Peasgood & Skeates
in bringing this service to you.*



St Mary's Church
Saffron Walden
Sharing God's Love

Here to help you in the days ahead.
Contact us through the Parish Office
Tel: 01799 506024
email:
office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

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support is available free of
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