

**St. Michael the Archangel,  
Swarden,  
All Saints Biddenden.**



# **Celebrating Life**

*Notes for preparing for a  
funeral or memorial*

*Epiphany 2016*

# ***A typical order of service for thanksgiving/funeral.***

Music:

Sentences

Welcome

**HYMN** – Optional.

Prayer

Bible Reading:

**HYMN** - Optional

Address

Eulogy

Prayers

*Sitting or kneeling*

The Lords 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** – Optional.

Prayer of Commendation.

Prayer of Committal – *With a service in church this takes usually place at the  
graveside, or in a Crematorium.*

Blessing

Music:

## **Bible Readings:**

You will need to choose one bible reading. A selection is given below. You can choose any Bible reading, you are not restricted to the readings provided below. Choose a reading which most makes sense to you. Please do ask any questions you have about the readings.

### ***John 14:1-6, 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. No one comes to the Father except through me. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

### ***Revelation 21:1-7***

<sup>1</sup>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 as their God; 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. <sup>7</sup>Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

### ***Ecclesiastics 3:1-7(8)***

<sup>1</sup>For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup>a time to kill [end], and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup>a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
<sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
(<sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.)

### ***Psalm 23***

1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## **Eulogy**

We much encourage Families to give a eulogy or an appreciation of a persons life. Preparing a eulogy can seem daunting, and many people feel they won't be speaking it on the day. Nevertheless the exercise of thinking and writing a eulogy can very healing. It is not necessary for your to read your eulogy, someone like the Minister can read a prepared text.

Here are some guidelines to help your thinking in preparing a Eulogy.

**The major moments in life?** Young, middle when older, when they was at work, at home or away? What are the major highlights in her life story. What were they committed to? What were their talents?

**What are the little characteristics by which you remember them by?** May be some of the things she said, did, her habits, pastimes passions. Her likes and

dislikes. One small bit of detail can be worth a 1000 words.

**What were the challenges, the difficult times?** How did they cope and what does this say about them? Should reference be made to the manner of their death if it was particularly shocking or untimely?

**When were they at their best and happiest?** What gave them pleasure?

**How do you feel about them?** What were they to you? What sort of things did you do with them?

**Who else was close to them?** How do they feel about the person?

## Hymns:

A selection of hymns which are often used in funeral and memorial services: Please note this is not an exhaustive list.

	AMNS	MP	
Abide with me	13	4	
All my hope on God is founded	336	16	
All things bright and beautiful	116	23	
And did those feet (Jerusalem)	294		
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound		31	
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	115	111	
Eternal Father strong to save	292	122	
Great is thy faithfulness		200	
Guide me, O thou great Redeemer	214	201	
Immortal, invisible, God only wise	199	327	
Jerusalem the Golden	184		
Jesus lives, thy terrors now	82	373	
Lead us Heavenly Father, lead us	224	400	
Lead, kindly light		215	399
Lord of all hopefulness	394	882	
Love divine, all loves excelling	131	449	
Make me a channel of your peace		456	
Morning has broken, like the first morning		467	
Now thank we all our God	205	486	
O Jesus, I have promised	235	501	
O Lord my God!, when I in awesome wonder	506		
Praise my soul, the King of Heaven	192	560	
The day thou gavest, Lord is ended	16	641	

The King of love, my shepherd is	126	649
The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want	426	660
Thine be the Glory,	428	689
To God be the glory!		708

## Music:

Some suggestion for music either at the start, at the end, or use music as a point of reflection in the middle of a ceremony?

Nimrod from Enigma Variations Elgar  
 Canon in D Pachelbel  
 Ave Maria Schubert  
 Pie Jesu from Requiem Faure  
 The Four Seasons Vivaldi  
 Adagio Albinoni/Bizet  
 Air on a G String Bach  
 Largo from Xerxes Handel  
 Clare de Lune Debussy

## **A selection of poems:**

### ***God Looked Around His Garden ...***

God looked around His garden  
And He found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon this earth  
And saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful;  
He always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering.  
He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again.  
He saw the road was getting rough,  
And the hills were hard to climb.  
So He closed your weary eyelids,  
And whispered "Peace be thine".  
It broke our heart to lose you,  
But you did not go alone.  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home. *Anon*

### ***You can shed tears that she is gone***

You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived  
  
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left  
  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared  
  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday  
  
You can remember her and only that she is gone  
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on  
  
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.  
*David Harkins 1959 – Silloth, Cumbria, UK*

## ***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           5  
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:   10  
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 Georgina Rossetti. 1830–1894*

## ***Time is too slow***

Time is too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice,  
but for those who love, time is eternity.

*Henry Van Dyke*

## ***If I should go before the rest of you***

If I should go 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 1910-1979*