

Michael Graham

29th September 1942 – 5th January, 2021

Order of Service 12 noon Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Gathering

Logging on to the Livestream

1. The live stream will start at about 11.55am in preparation for the service.
2. Go to www.stmaryletower.org.uk and click on the “**LIVE Streamed Services**” box.
3. If you are asked to open a Facebook account, please just dismiss that.
4. Click on the service video. When the video opens you may need to click on the loudspeaker icon to hear the sound.

Music before the Service

Organist: William Baldry, Assistant Director of Music

Opening Sentences

Music: God be in my head – Walford Davies

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in my eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in my heart, and in my thinking;

God be at my end, and at my departing.

‘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*

Welcome and Introduction

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
you judge 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.**

Opening Hymn

Cantor: Christopher Borrett, Director of Music

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changes not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

The Thanksgiving

Reading: Psalm 121

read by Tom Graham

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence
cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord who hath made
heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved and he that
keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor
sleep.
The Lord himself is thy keeper; the Lord is thy defence
upon thy right hand.
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the
moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even
he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming
in, from this time forth for evermore.

Family Tribute

by Ted Graham

Anthem (John Rutter)

St Mary-le-Tower choir,
specially recorded for this service

The Lord bless you and keep you:
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.

Tribute

by Peter Wright

Hymn

Sung by the cantor.

We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes, and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.

**All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.**

He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the wind and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us his children,
he gives our daily bread.

All good gifts around us.....

We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts we have to offer
for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest,
our humble thankful hearts.

All good gifts around us.....

Listening for the Word of Peace

Prayer for the Day

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,
grant us with Michael and all the faithful departed
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion
and glorious resurrection:
that, in the last day,
when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: I Thessalonians 4.13-end

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 for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

For the gift of his living word,
Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Address

The Vicar

Intercession

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us Michael to live among us and to touch our lives with his loving presence. As family and friends who have loved him and enjoyed his friendship, we are gathered in mind and spirit at this time to give Michael back to you. We thank you for the grace and mercy he received from you, and for all your inexhaustible love for him. We thank you for all that was good in his life, and for the memories we treasure today.

(pause for reflection)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised eternal life to those who believe. Remember for good your servant Michael as we also remember him. Bring all who rest in your safe keeping into the peace and fullness of your kingdom; where sins have been forgiven, death is no more, and we shall know you as you are. Increase our faith and comfort our sorrow, and may your peace fill our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit of God, you bring new joys out of sadness and grief, new strength in times of sorrow and difficulty, and new life out of death and tragedy. Look in loving mercy on Sally and all the family and friends of Michael, on all who mourn for him. Give us patient faith in times of darkness, and strengthen us all with your loving presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You are tender towards your children and your mercy is over all your works. Heal the memories of hurt and failure. Give us wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. In all our turning to Christ, and in all our following in his steps, may we discover anew your loving faithfulness in the way that leads to eternal life.

(pause for reflection)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

Hymn

Sung by the cantor.

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:

○ hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

○ Saviour, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage didst sleep:

○ hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

○ sacred Spirit, who didst brood
upon the waters dark and rude,
and bad'st its angry tumult cease,
and givest light and life and peace:

○ hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

○ Trinity of love and power,
our brethren shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go:
and ever let there rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

The Farewell

Reading: Crossing the Bar

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

read by Tim Curl

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Prayers of Commendation

Michael has fallen asleep in the peace of Christ. We entrust him, with faith and hope in everlasting life, to the love and mercy of our heavenly Father, and surround him with our love and prayer. In baptism, he was made by adoption a child of God. At the eucharist he was sustained and fed. God now welcomes him to his table in heaven to share in eternal life with all the saints. **Amen.**

Michael, go forth from this world:
in the love of God the Father who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.
May the heavenly host sustain you
and the company of heaven enfold you.
In communion with all the faithful,
may you dwell in peace. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

Prayers for the light of eternity

Eternal God,
you give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death;
let your light shine on those who mourn
that they may rejoice in your holy comfort
and live in the light of the resurrection
of Jesus Christ 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.**

Blessing

May the light of Christ pierce the darkness of your grief.
May the light of Christ lift your spirits,
and gladden each day.
May the peace of Christ fill your hearts,
and comfort your sorrow.
May Christ our Saviour walk by your side,
today and tomorrow.
And may the blessing of our Eternal God and Father
be with you now and until the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Committal Procession

Music: Nimrod from Enigma Variations - Elgar