

Old Hills Malvern Churches

A simple reflection at home on the day of a funeral you can't attend

A message from The Reverend Gary Crellin – The Vicar of the Old Hills Malvern Churches (the Church in Powick, Callow End, Guarlford, Madresfield with Newland):

I am so sorry for your personal loss of someone so dear to you. It's so difficult when you can't go to a funeral, whether for family, friend or neighbour. Many are facing this in the current COVID19 crisis, so this short reflection has been specially written for you to do at home, alone or with those who share your home. You might ask others to take part at the same time from their homes. Please feel free to share this amongst your family and friends. I hope and pray it gives you comfort, hope and an opportunity to give thanks.

When this time of social distancing is over, there may well be an opportunity to meet together at a special time of remembering and thankfulness – in a church service of thanksgiving or elsewhere. Your memories now can be part of that experience when the time comes. It is important that you are together with your loved one in mind, memory and spirit even though you cannot physically be at the funeral in these unprecedented circumstances. My thoughts, prayers and blessings are with you at this very sad time. Rev Gary

A short reading from The Bible:

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

Before you find a place to sit quietly, you might like to find a photograph of the person who has died, write down some special memories, or play a special piece of music that connects you with the person you are remembering today. Think about those who are at the funeral and pray for them. Where it says 'N' in a prayer, just say the name of your person. You might like to light a candle. Then pray this prayer:

Be with us, loving God.
Hear our prayers and comfort us in our loss,
and help us to trust in your Son Jesus,
whom you raised from the dead.
Strengthen our faith and renew our hope
that N and all those we love will share in his resurrection.
Amen.

Read Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *He refreshes my soul,*

he guides me along the right paths



for his name's sake.
*⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest
valley,^[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*
*⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*
*⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*



Everyone has a story to tell - a life lived to reflect upon. Rev Gary says: "If I am taking the funeral, I will say some Good Words about N (eulogy means - Good words). When you go home, want you to do something for the me. Read the 23rd Psalm - The Lord's my Shepherd. Sing it or hum along to it, as the theme tune for the sitcom, The Vicar of Dibley. Why ? That psalm, song or poem is about life's journeys. The ups and downs. The highs , the lows. The achievements and let downs. The fun and the sadness. However we live our life, however N lived their life, we are all be journeyed with and looked after – as N looked after you, you looked after N and God cares for us all even in these anxious times. Reflect on N's life as you read the 23rd Psalm. Be thankful for N place in your heart and family".

Now give thanks to God for their life and ask for strength for yourself and those who grieve.

Dear God, thank you for N
and for all that he/she meant to me and to others.
I so wanted to say goodbye.
Help me to know you are there,
holding all my hopes,
holding all those I love, especially N,
and holding me this day too.
Be close to us all this day with your peace and hope.
Amen.



Heavenly Father,
you have not made us for darkness and death, but for life with you for ever.
Without you we have nothing to hope for; with you we have nothing to fear.
Speak to us now your words of eternal life.

Lift us to the light and
peace of your presence,
and set the glory of
your love before us
today: through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Say the Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

*as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.*

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

(or)

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.

Now pray these prayers , which are used at the end of the funeral service to say goodbye

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose on earth, a time to be born and a time to die. We entrust N with faith and hope for everlasting life to the love mercy and safe keeping of our heavenly Father and surround her with our love and prayer - **AMEN**

Hold a moment of silence . Concentrate on your breathing. Look at the candle.

Support us O Lord all the day of this troublesome life, 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 - give us a safe place to be, a holy rest and peace at last. Through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

A selection of Poems for comfort

1. *I thought of you with love today
but that is nothing new
I thought about you yesterday
and days before that too.*

*I think of you in silence
I often speak your name
All I have are memories
and your picture in a frame*

*Your memory is my keepsake
with which I'll never part
God has you in his keeping
I have you in my heart.* Anon

2. *Miss me, let me go
When U come to the end of the road,
And the sun has set for me, I want no tears
In a gloom filled room. Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little, but not too much
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared,
Miss me but let me go.*

*This is a journey we all must take
And each must take alone;
It's all a part of God's perfect plan,
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick of heart,
Go to the friends we know.
Bury your sorrows in good deeds,
Miss me, but let me go.* Anon



For further help and support during these difficult days, please see www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk or contact the Vicar, Rev Gary Crellin on 01905 830 270

'My thoughts and prayers are with you during this day and onwards' Rev Gary