

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Rt Revd Dr Alan Thomas Lawrence Wilson

27 March 1955 – 17 February 2024



The Parish Church of All Saints
High Wycombe
Saturday 13 April 2024

Prior to the service, the following are played by the Organist:

Fugue in B minor BWV 579 - J.S. Bach

Elegy - Thalben-Ball

Rhosymedre - Vaughan Williams

I Know My Redeemer Liveth - Handel

The Lord Lieutenant takes her seat (escorted by the Revd David Meakin)

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Fr Anthony Searle, Team Rector of High Wycombe

The Introit

Sung by the Choir

Remain seated

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessèd unction from above
is comfort, life and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
with the abundance of thy grace;
keep far our foes, give peace at home;
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Words: John Cosin (1594-1672)
Veni, creator Spiritus (Mechlin)
Music: *Mode viii*

Please stand as you are able

Processional Hymn

All my hope on God is founded:
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance He guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown, He alone
Calls my heart to be His own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust:
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep His wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light and life attend Him,
Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from His store
New-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th'Almighty Giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow.
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at His hand;
Joy doth wait on His command.

Still from earth to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ His Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.

Words: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)
Based on *Meine Hoffnung steht feste*,
By Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
Music: Herbert Norman Howells (1892-1983)

The Gathering

The Revd Canon Janet Binns, Area Dean of the Burnham and Slough Deanery, lights a candle

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.

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient
but the things that are unseen are eternal.
Today we come together
to remember before God our brother, Bishop Alan,
to give thanks for the richness of his life,
the humour he brought to so many,
the qualities he shared with us
and the many gifts he gave to us
in the service of his Lord and our Lord.
We come as well to comfort one another in our grief.

Please sit

“Alan as a Local Bishop and Pastor to the Clergy”

The Ven Guy Elsmore

Poem: “God says yes to me” by Kaylin Haught

Read by the Revd Canon Rosie Harper

“Memories of Alan”

The Revd Danny Muñoz, recording

Please sit

The Revd Canon Chris Bull, Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham, lights a candle and reads: A Song of God's Love

- 1 Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 2 Whoever does not love does not know God,
for God is love.
- 3 In this the love of God was revealed among us,
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through him.
- 4 In this is love,
not that we loved God but that he loved us,
and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.
- 5 Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we ought also to love one another.
- 6 For if we love one another, God abides in us,
and God's love will be perfected in us.

1 John 4.7-11,12b

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

“Alan as a Leader in Education”

Tony Wilson, Diocesan Director of Education

Reading: Luke 10.25–37

Read by Daniel Connelly, from All Saints, High Wycombe

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Hymn

Alan Wilson, Rosie Harper and Gilo spent a day at the William Blake exhibition at the Tate in 2020. Alan liked this postmodern attempt to honour Blake's famous hymn, and saw in it theological wisdom for our times.

Gilo is a hymnwriter, co-editor of the book Letters to a Broken Church, and co-creator of the House of Survivors website.

And can it be that in our time
We fathom out the truth unseen?
Yet has all meaning flown away
And left a space where truth has been?
And did the dream of life divine
Shine brightly once, but cease to thrill?
And can we build our temples high
Among all our confusion still?

Bring me the verb of blazing grace!
Bring me the noun as yet unknown!
Bring forth a sign, O Life retrace,
Bring flame that kindled all we've known!
We shall not rest our troubled frown
Nor freely smile, till earth embrace
And every wall be broken down
And earth sees glory's hidden face.

For this the wisdom, this the song,
This is the hope shall free this age;
And this the way all journey long
Released from ancient scripture's page.
That we are one in birth and death
And one the air that all inhale
So earth sing out, unite your breath,
One presence shines beneath your veil!

Words: © Gilo

This is the first performance of this hymn

Music: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

Please sit

*The Revd Ruth Harley, Curate of the Watling Valley Partnership,
lights a candle*

Prayer

God of grace and glory, we thank you for Alan, who was so near and dear to us, and who has now been taken from us.

O God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief and shock
contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

We pray for ourselves, who are severely tested by Alan's death, that we do not try to minimise this loss, or seek refuge from it in words alone, and also that we do not brood over it so that it overwhelms us and isolates us from others. May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of the risen Christ.

Amen.

Father in heaven,
we give you thanks for your servant Bishop Alan.
We praise you as we recollect his life and cherish his memory.
We bless you that in bearing your image
He has brought light to our lives;
for we have seen in his friendship reflections of your
compassion, in his integrity demonstrations of your
goodness, in his faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love.
Grant to each of us the grace to follow his good example
so that we with him may come to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory,
to whom be praise for all eternity.

All **Amen.**

Family Memories

Reading: "16 Rules for Ministry"

by Alan Wilson

Read by members of the Bucks Area Team

Music: "Steal Away" from A Child of our Time

by Michael Tippett

Sung by the Choir

Homily

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford



Words: John 6:68

Music: The Iona Community

The Commendation

The Bishops of Oxford, Reading and Dorchester

Almighty God,
in your great love
you crafted us by your hand
and breathed life into us by your Spirit.
Although we became a rebellious people,
you did not abandon us to our sin.
In your tender mercy
you sent your Son
to restore in us your image.
In obedience to your will
he gave up his life for us,
bearing in his body our sins on the cross.

By your mighty power
you raised him from the grave
and exalted him to the throne of glory.
Rejoicing in his victory
and trusting in your promise
to make alive all who turn to Christ,
we commend your mercy
and we join with all your faithful people
and the whole company of heaven
in the one unending song of praise:
glory and wisdom and honour
be to our God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All **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.**

Music: "The Lord Bless you and Keep you"

by John Rutter

Sung by the Choir

The Blessing

The Bishop of Oxford

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
Make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Words of Dismissal

*(Bishop Alan often used these words at the end of his sermons,
based on text from The Blue Mountains of China by Rudy Wiebe)*

“In the kingdom of the Prince of Peace
you show wisdom by trusting people;
you handle leadership, by serving;

you handle offenders, by forgiving;
you handle money, by sharing;
you handle enemies, by loving;
and you handle violence by suffering

Because this is a Jesus society,
and you repent, not by feeling bad,
but by thinking different.”

Over to you.

This is the Way of Christ

All **We will walk in this Way together
Thanks be to God**

Recessional Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word –
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same –
his holy name: the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure:
tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Based on Luke 1: 46-55

(Magnificat, The Song of Mary)

Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Music: "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise"

by Stephane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt

*The Lord Lieutenant leaves her seat (escorted by
the Revd David Meakin)*

Photography will take place during the service on behalf of the Church of England. Still images captured by the photographers today may be used for social media and materials published by the Diocese of Oxford. If you have questions relating to photography taking place today, please email communications@oxford.anglican.org

Copyright Licence: CCLI 303782

*Prayers "God of grace and glory," etc. © Scottish Episcopal Church 1986
Prayers from Common Worship copyright © Archbishops' Council of the Church of England*

Alan's family has set up a fund for donations in his memory. These will be divided between One Body One Faith and MACSAS. If you would like to make a charitable donation in Alan's memory, please use the QR code below or visit:

justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alanwilsondonations





DIOCESE *of*
OXFORD