

# Remembering those who have died



Annual Memorial Service  
St Mary the Virgin  
The Parish Church of Stotfold and Fairfield

Sunday 1 November 2020 at 2.00pm

## Organ Music

Largo, Handel

## Welcome and introduction

*The Pascal Candle is lit in witness to the presence of the risen Christ in our midst.*

We meet in the presence of God  
**who knows our needs,  
hears our cries,  
feels our pain,  
and heals our wounds.**

## Prayer

Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,  
as we come before you  
in grief and praise this day,  
comfort us with your presence,  
make us attentive to your voice,  
and sustain us with the hope of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## First reading

Lamentations Chapter 4, Verses 21–26

But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:  
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul,  
‘therefore I will hope in him.’

The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

### Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

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

3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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 shall be full.

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

### Second Reading:

Revelation Chapter 21, Verses 1-7

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;

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.

### Address

Revd Bill Britt

### Music

The Lord is My Shepherd, written by John Rutter and performed by The Cambridge Singers

### Remembering with Thanksgiving

God of grace and glory, we come to remember especially before you today ....

*(The names of those to be remembered are read aloud. A priest will light candles as the names are read out.)*

We thank you for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion console those who mourn. Grant us that we may see in death the gate of everlasting life and continue our course on earth in faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Life and the Resurrection of all who put their trust in him.

This is the will of him that sent me,  
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,  
**and I will raise them up at the last day.**

### Music

The Lord Bless You and Keep You, written by John Rutter and performed by The Cambridge Singers.

### Prayers

Heavenly Father, when fear and anxiety besiege us  
and hope is veiled in grief,  
may your Son hold us in his wounded hands  
Lord with your love,  
**Hear us.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and  
trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection  
to life everlasting.  
Lord with your love  
**Hear us.**

Let us pray also for those who mourn Loving God, comfort them in their  
sorrow. Fill the emptiness in their hearts with the presence of your love. Fill  
our hearts with the hope for heaven. May we all have strength to meet the  
days ahead in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love.  
Lord with your love  
**Hear us.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that  
your Holy Spirit may lead us in goodness and truth all our days. Lord with your  
love  
**Hear us.**

### The Blessing

In the tender love of our God:  
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.

Go forth into the world in peace.  
Be of good courage.  
Hold fast that which is good.  
Render to no one evil for evil.  
Strengthen the fainthearted.  
Support the weak.  
Help the afflicted.  
Show love to everyone.  
Love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### Organ Music

First verse of "Thine be the glory," written by Edmond Louis Budry.

"Nimrod" from "Enigma Variations," written by Edward Elgar.