

A Thanksgiving Service for the Life
of

Audrey Birch (née Churchill)

1926 - 2015



Wednesday 23rd December 2015

2.45pm

St Peter's Chapel
Exeter Crematorium

Opening Sentences

Graham and Brenda speak of their mother

Psalm 23 Crimond

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale
Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Further Memories of Audrey

Reading

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 she has left.
Your heart can be empty because you cannot see her,
Or you can be full of the love 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 has 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.

Bishop French

Reading

Death is nothing at all

Death is nothing at all...I have only slipped away in the next room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, that we still are. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way you always used. Put no difference in your tone, Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight ? I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well.

Henry Scott Holland

Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Reading

John Chapter 14 v1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God; have faith also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If there were not, would I have told you
that I am going to prepare a place for you?"

And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
So that where I am you also may be.
Where I am going you know the way.”
Thomas said to him,
“Master, 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.”

Address

Prayers

Committal



Donations in Audrey's memory for
Hospiscare or BRPS
c/o M. Sillifant & Sons.
19-20 Holloway Street, Exeter. EX2 4JD
or by retiring collection.

Please join the family after the service at
Exeter Golf & Country Club.