

SAINT JOHN'S  FINCH STREET

A Funeral Service

in thanksgiving for the life of



JOHN ANDREW SWINDON

3rd March 1955 – 31st August 2021

Thursday 16th September 2021, 2pm

The congregation stand as the bell is rung

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

✠ In the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Words of welcome and introduction by the Vicar, the Reverend Dr Alexander Ross

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet will they live.'

John 11.25

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

His mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness

Lamentations 3:22-23

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, we remember before you

this day your servant John.

We thank you for giving him to us to know and love

as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage.

Preserve among us the good of his example.

In your compassion, console those who mourn,

and bring John into the fellowship and inheritance of your saints;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

**1. Come down, O Love divine,
seek now this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**

3. Let holy charity
my outer garment be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong
with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace
till we become the place
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco de Siena d.1434
tr. Richard Frederick Littledale 1833-90 alt.

TIS 398

EULOGY

Geoff Swindon

IMAGES AND MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

READINGS

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

[13:4-13]

Read by Helen Dunlop

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to

face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

A reading from the Gospel according to John

[14:1-6, 27]

Read by Stephen Brett

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, 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.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

HOMILY

The Vicar

PRAYERS

The prayers are led by the Vicar, and conclude with the Lord's Prayer, said by all

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

FAREWELL & COMMENDATION

Let us entrust our brother John to the mercy of God.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our brother John
by water and the Spirit.

Grant that his death may recall to us
your victory over death,
and be an occasion for us
to renew our trust in your Father's love.

Give us, we pray, the faith to follow
where you have led the way,
to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

*The coffin is sprinkled with holy water
signifying John's baptism into Christ's death and resurrection*

'O Rest in the Lord' from Elijah by Felix Mendelssohn
sung by Choral Scholar Alexandra Amerides

*Incense is used to honour John's mortal body
and to symbolise the rising of our prayers*

Holy and loving Father, by your mighty power you gave us life, and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus. We entrust John to your merciful keeping: in the faith of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to save us, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring John
and the whole Church, living and departed
in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son ✠, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Please follow the coffin as it is carried from the church

THE COMMITTAL

Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
you have given us a sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life.
In your keeping are all who have departed in Christ.
We here commit the body
of our dear brother John to be cremated,
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,
and who shall change our mortal body
that it may be like his glorious body.
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



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