

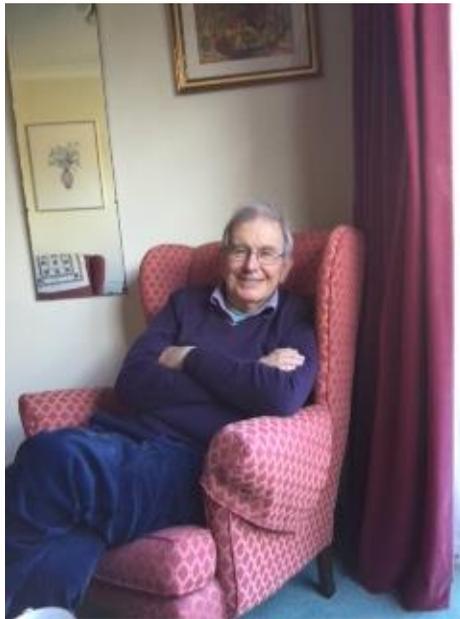
The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton

Sung Requiem Mass

in Thanksgiving for the Life of

Richard Alcock

1935-2020



Wednesday 13th January 2021

11.00 am

¶ Keeping everyone safe at St Matthew's

In accordance with Government guidance and local decision, we respectfully request and require you to:

Go directly to a chair where you will find an order of service booklet, and remain there. Do not move from chair to chair, or remove a booklet from another chair.

Please do not move the chairs, or handle any other furniture. Soft furnishings such as church kneelers (hassocks) cannot be used.

You are required to **wear a face covering throughout the service** unless you belong to one of the medically exempted groups. This must cover both your mouth and your nose. (Plastic visors do not protect others).

At communion - you are asked to remain at your chair and ensure that your face covering is in place until the words of administration have been spoken by the priest and you have responded by saying 'Amen'. **If you wish to receive God's blessing** please hold this booklet in your hands.

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Before the Service: Prelude in E flat BWV 552

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Setting:

Missa pro Defunctis

Plainsong

Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

*When the bell is rung **please stand** for the procession*

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

All Grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

The service is introduced

A Tribute

All sit

Given by Richard's friend, John Greenwood

Prayers of Penitence

All stand

As we acknowledge our human frailty,
we call to mind our sins of word, deed and omission,
and confess them before God our Father.

Silence is kept

Confession

All **God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought
and said and done,
and are mindful of all we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Kyries

Translation

Solo *Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Absolution

May God our Father forgive † your sins
and bring you to the fellowship of his table in heaven
with his saints for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty God and Father,
it is our certain faith that your Son, who died on the cross,
was raised from the dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Grant that through this mystery
your servant Richard, who has gone to his rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

read by Jane Greenwood

Reader A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 4.14 - 5.1

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

Holy Gospel

John 6.35-40

Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I shall lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.'

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

All sit

At the end, a period of silent reflection may follow

Pie Jesu

Translation

*Choir Holy Jesus, Lord, grant them rest:
grant them eternal rest.*

Prayers of the Faithful

The Priest stands and the congregation remains seated

Priest Brothers and sisters,
let us pray with confidence to God our heavenly Father,
who raised Christ his Son from the dead and sits at his right
hand, that we may join our prayers with his.

Intercessor We thank you for Richard who in baptism was given the pledge
of eternal life, that he may rejoice to be admitted to the company
of the saints.

All Living Lord,
hear our prayer.

For our brother who was nourished by the bread of life,
and cup of salvation, a foretaste of the eternal banquet of heaven,
that he may be raised up on the last day.

All Living Lord,
hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends, and all who have helped us in our Christian pilgrimage, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

All Living Lord,
hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

All Living Lord,
hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our brother Richard, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

All Living Lord,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

All Living Lord,
hear our prayer.

Priest God, our shelter and our strength,
you listen in love to the cry of your people:
hear the prayers we offer for our departed brother Richard.
Cleanse him and all the faithful departed of their sins
and grant them the fullness of redemption.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All stand

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Sign of Peace

Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

With an appropriate gesture, let us offer one another
a sign of peace.

Offertory

I know that my Redeemer liveth

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Solo *I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
And though worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead,
the first-fruits of them that sleep.*

Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, we are united in this sacrament by the love of Jesus Christ.
Accept these gifts
and receive our brother Richard into the glory of your Son,
who lives and reigns with you,
Lord for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because through him you have given us
the hope of a glorious resurrection;
so that, although death comes to us all,
yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life;
for to your faithful people life is changed, not taken away,
and when our mortal flesh is laid aside
an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in heaven.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Translation

*Solo Holy, Lord God of hosts,
the heavens and the earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world,
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup.
Welcome into your kingdom our departed brother Richard
and all who have left this world in your friendship.
In the company of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
Saint Matthew, and all the saints,
may we with them praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Blessed Sacrament is elevated and bells are rung

The Lord's Prayer

All sit

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom
where there will be neither sorrow nor weeping:

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

All Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Agnus Dei

Translation

Solo Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
grant them eternal rest.

Giving of Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The clergy receive Holy Communion

Communion Sentence

God will show us the path of life; in his presence is the fullness of joy: and at his right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

Please remain at your chairs and ensure that your face covering is in place until the words of administration have been spoken and you have responded by saying 'Amen'.

Alternatively, if you wish to receive God's blessing please hold this booklet in your hands, as a sign. Thank you.

Anthem

Evening hymn

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Solo *Now, now that the sun hath veil'd his light
And bid the world goodnight;
To the soft bed my body I dispose,
But where shall my soul repose?
Dear, dear God, even in Thy arms,
And can there be any so sweet security!
Then to thy rest, O my soul!
And singing, praise the mercy
That prolongs thy days.*

Hallelujah!

Words: William Fuller

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

All stand

Lord God,
your Son Jesus Christ gave us the sacrament
of his body and blood
to guide us on our pilgrim way to your kingdom.
May our brother Richard, who shared in the eucharist,
come to the banquet of eternal life Christ has prepared for us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Christian symbols are removed from the coffin. The coffin is sprinkled with holy water signifying our share in Christ's death and resurrection through baptism, and then honoured with incensed.

Reading

read by James Alcock, Richard's nephew

'Not how did he die, but how did he live' *Anon*

¶ Final Commendation

Let us commend Richard to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Invitation to Prayer

Priest Our brother Richard has fallen asleep in Christ. Confident in our hope of eternal life, let us commend him to the loving mercy of our Father and let our prayers go with him. He was adopted as God's son in baptism and was nourished at the table of the Lord; may he now inherit the promise of eternal life and take his place at the table of God's children in heaven.

Let us also pray on our own behalf, that we who now mourn and are saddened may one day go forth with our brother to meet the Lord of life when he appears in glory.

Song of Farewell

I know that my redeemer lives,
and on that final day of days,
His voice shall bid me rise again;
unending joy, unceasing praise!

This hope I cherish in my heart:
to stand on earth, my flesh restored,
and, not a stranger but a friend,
behold my Saviour and my Lord.

Prayer of Commendation

Into your hands, Father of mercies,
we commend our brother Richard
in sure and certain hope
that, together with all who have died in Christ,
he will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings
which you bestowed upon Richard in this life:
they are signs to us of your goodness
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn towards us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to your servant
and help us who remain
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ
and are with you and with our brother for ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

¶ Sending Out

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

Solemn Blessing

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All

Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.

† Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon him.

All

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God rest in peace,
and rise in glory. Amen.

All

Organ Voluntary

Allegro maestoso from Sonata no 1 Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

The procession departs

*In accordance with the most recent Government guidance
you are respectfully asked not to mingle with other members of the congregation
but depart directly.*

