

The Ancient Parish Church of St Nicholas,
Wickham,
Hampshire.

Funeral Service

Reginald Arnold Archer Hirst

26th June 1936 – 22nd May 2007

*Baptised 6th September 1936, St Alban's Cathedral, Pretoria,
by Fr. Dudley Brown, a family friend.
Made Deacon by the Archbishop of Cape Town,
The Rt. Revd. Dr. Joost de Blank,
in the Cathedral Church of St George, Cape Town,
on Sunday 18th November 1960 (Advent 1V)
and ordained Priest by the same Archbishop of Cape Town
in the Parish Church of St Paul, Bree Street, Cape Town,
on Sunday 17th December 1961 (Advent 111).*

Tuesday, 29th May 2007

12.00 Noon

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious:
and his mercy endureth for ever.
Psalm 136: Book of Common Prayer

On a huge hill,
Cragged and steep, Truth stands and he that will
Reach her, about must, and about must go.
John Donne, 'Hymne to God my Father in my Sicknesse'
Divine Poems (OUP, 1982)

Let your last thanks all be thanks.
W. H. Auden, 'Lullaby' Thank You, Fog (Faber, 1974)

I ponder all the possibilities that come with being human.
Good and evil, happiness and misery, achievement and
failure, love and isolation – everything that goes into being
the particular person that you are in that particular social and
historical setting. That's a lot isn't it? My God, that's some
menu!
William Boyd, 'The New Confessions' (Penguin 1988)

And let us never forget, that if we take our belief in God
seriously, then we must believe that humour and humanity
are linked together in his wonderful creation and there is no
place for self-righteousness.
Dr. Jonathan Sachs in a recent broadcast, Thought for the Day,
March 2007

The Family, Churchwardens and members of the Parochial
Church Council, invite you to tea and scones after the Service
in church. The family will follow the coffin for a short
Committal in the Churchyard and will join you shortly for tea.

*Thank you all for being with us today, and to so many unable to be
with us, for remembering.*

ORDER OF SERVICE

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

THE INTRODUCTION

The minister introduces the service

HYMN

Peter Abelard (1079 – 1142)

Tune: O quanta qualia AMNS 186

O what their joy and their glory must be,
those endless Sabbaths the blessed ones see;
crown for the valiant, to weary ones rest;
God shall be all, and in all every blest.

Truly Jerusalem name we that shore,
'Vision of peace,' that brings joy evermore.
Wish and fulfilment can severed be ne'er,
Nor the thing prayed for come short of the prayer.

There, where no troubles distraction can bring,
we the sweet anthems of Sion shall sing,
while for the grace, Lord, their voices of praise
thy blessed people eternally raise.

Now in the meanwhile, with hearts raised on high,
we for that country must yearn and must sigh;
seeking Jerusalem, dear native land,
through our long exile on Babylon's strand.

Low before him with our praises we fall,
of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all:
of whom, the Father; and in whom, the Son;
through whom, the Spirit, with them ever One.

BRIEF TRIBUTES MAY BE MADE

Fr. Ted Goodyer

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The minister introduces the confession

As children of a loving heavenly Father,
let us ask his forgiveness,
for he is gentle and full of compassion.

Silence may be kept

**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 that 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*The minister pronounces the absolution
and invites the people to pray,
silence is kept,
and the **Collect** is said.*

THE COLLECT

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith, that all who have died in the love of
Christ, will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (New Revised Standard Version)

The Revd. Fr. Andrew McMahon S.S.F.

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; . . . Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

HYMN

Latin, 7th – 8th Century (AMNS 332 vs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.)

Tune: Westminster Abbey

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner stone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one,
holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

To this Temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:17 -21 (NRSV)

Fr. Oriel Alby

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what

are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

THE SERMON

The Rt. Revd. Dom Timothy Bavin
Order of Benedict

HYMN

Praxis Pietatis Melica (1668)
Tune: Lobe den Herren (AMNS 207 vs. 1, 2, 4)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
 all ye who hear,
 now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously
reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:
 hast thou not seen
 how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before
him!

 Let the Amen
 sound from his people again:
gladly for ay we adore him.

THE PRAYERS

At the end of which, The Lord's Prayer, is said.

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

The minister says

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

*Silence is kept, after which these prayers of trusting
and commending are said:*

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.

Confident of his victory
and claiming his promises,
we entrust Arnold to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive
and reigns with you,
now and for ever.

Amen.

God our Father,
we thank you that you have made each of us in your image
and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you.

We thank you for Arnold,
the years we and others have shared with him,
the good we saw in him,
the love we received from him.

Now give us strength and courage
to leave him in your care,
confident in your promise of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Arnold, go forth upon your journey from this world,
in the name of God the Father almighty who created you;
in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered death for you;
in the name of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you;
in communion with the blessed saints,
and aided by angels and archangels,
and all the armies of the heavenly host.
May your portion this day be in peace,
and your dwelling the heavenly Jerusalem. **Amen.**

*During the following hymn, the clergy will lead the coffin out
to the Churchyard, followed by the family for a short
Committal, and will join you immediately afterwards.*

You are invited to stay for tea to which you will be directed.

*Please would you kindly sign the Memoriam Book
as you leave the Church, so that the family
will have a record of those in attendance.*

*The family wish to express their gratitude for any donations
and have requested they be shared between
St. Nicholas' Church and Cancer Research U.K.
and may be sent c/o Nigel Chamberlain & Partners,
The Gate House, Victoria Road,
Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DJ.*

*Again, we thank you all, visiting clergy, Sisters from Park Place,
and other visitors, for your love, prayers and generous support.*

THE BLESSING

HYMN

E. H. Thorne (1834 – 1916) / Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-95
(AMNS 312)

Tune: Stuttgart (AMNS 48)

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, 'Christian, follow me;'

As of old St Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
that we love him more than these.

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Saviour, make us hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

Organist: Rosemary Field

A MEDIEVAL TRADITION

There is a medieval tradition which still holds in many parts of the Christian Church today. Most people are still buried with their feet facing East, the direction in which those early Christians assumed Christ ascended into Heaven, but priests are usually buried the other way, facing their people, so after death they will have to face not only God, but probably all the people they have failed!. And that is quite a thought, isn't it?

Requiem aeternam dona eis,
Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

THE GLOBAL VILLAGE AND THE GLOBAL PARISH

Arnold served in the following parishes and has always said what an amazing experience and joy it was ministering to such a variety of people in such different conditions and circumstances. As a family we are very thankful for having made wonderful friendships, many of whom are still good and firm friends today.

- 1960 – 1963 Assistant Curate, St. Mary's Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 1963 – 1966 Senior Curate, St. Saviour's, Claremont, Cape Town, S.A.
- 1967 – 1968 Priest-in-Charge, St. Mary's Stellenbosch, S.A.
- 1968 – 1976 Assistant Priest and then Rector of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Durban North, S.A.
- 1976 – 1983 Rector of St. George's Parktown, Johannesburg, S.A. & Chaplain to Roedean School (South Africa), and part-time Assistant Chaplain to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.
- 1983 – 1988 Rector of St. Michael's Bryanston, Johannesburg, S.A.
- 1988 – 2005 Rector of St. Nicholas's Wickham, Hampshire, England.

St. George's Church, Parktown, Johannesburg
are holding a Memorial Service for Arnold
to run concurrently with this service.



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