

St Mary's Church

Ashwell



Funeral service of

KEITH (Wiggy) BENNETT

3rd June 1921 – 20th December 2006

Service conducted by The Reverend Dr. Simon Chambers

Friday 5th January 2007

12.00 noon

Ascension

*And if I go,
while you're still here...
Know that I live on,
vibrating to a different measure
--behind a thin veil you cannot see through.
You will not see me,
so you must have faith.
I wait for the time when we can soar together again,
--both aware of each other.
Until then, live your life to its fullest.
And when you need me,
Just whisper my name in your heart,
...I will be there.*

Colleen Hitchcock

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

*Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone!"
"Gone where?"*

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port

*Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she is gone!" There are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout,
"Here she comes!"
And that is dying...*

Henry Van Dyke

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise;
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee;
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace;
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm;
O still, small voice of calm.

READING
John 14 v1-6
Russell Leal-Bennett

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 when 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.'

HYMN

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise**

TRIBUTE TO KEITH
David Leal-Bennett

**Recited at Westminster Abbey's November Memorial Service
for the survivors of HMS Barham**

Tim Bennett

**In Memory of the Royal Navy's Warships of World War II
(‘Reflections from Guzz’)**

Once I looked from the Tamar Bridge, at the warships down below
Ships of the modern Navy, with names I did not know.
And, as I stood and gazed at them, on the water far below
I saw a fleet of phantom ships, and men of long ago.

The Rodney and the Nelson, the Valiant and Ramilies
Repulse, Renown and Malaya, coming home from foreign seas.
I saw Revenge and Warspite, ill-fated Royal Oak,
So many ships, their names made faint, by shell and fire and smoke.

And some I see to harbour, come as through glasses dark.
The Barham and the Glorious. The Eagle and the Ark,
And then, there comes the greatest, the mighty warship Hood
Dark and grey and wraithlike, from the spot on which I stood.

From the cruel North Atlantic, from the Med and Java sea,
The big ships and the little ships, returned for me to see
There's the Dorsetshire, Edinburgh, Campbeltown and Kent
The Cossack, and Courageous, the Charybdis and Ardent.

I could just discern the Kelly, Kashmir and Kandahar
The Jarvis, York and Stuart, the Aussie Navy's star.
With Cape Matapan's fine Formidable, her air wing safely fast.
The Cornwall home from China, the Belfast home at last.

Now I can't see very clearly, must be smoke that's in my eyes
But mercifully hidden are the men, and stilled their raucous cries.
You don't know Shorty Hasset, he won the D.S.M
He still fought on when Exeter was burning stern to stem

Where now...! Dodger Long and Lofty, where now the boys and men?
They are lost and gone forever; shall we see their likes again?
I am sure I saw them mustering on deck for daily prayer,
And heard "For those in Peril", rise on the evening air.

Then darker grew the picture, as the lowering night came on,
I looked down from that lofty bridge, but all the ships were gone.
Those mighty ships had vanished; gone those simple men.
We'll surely never ever, see the likes of them again.

Acknowledgements to ‘Rodney Buzz’

TIME FOR MEMORIES AND REFLECTION

ANTHEM

“God be in my head”

H. Walford Davies

ADDRESS

The Reverend Dr. Simon Chambers

PRAYERS CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

HYMN

1.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.

2.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.

3.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish
Blows the wind and it is gone
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the high eternal One

4.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He Knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Widely as His mercy flows.

5.

Angels help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him, praise Him,
praise Him, praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace.

COMMENDATION

BLESSING

A private committal to follow at
Harwood Park Crematorium - Stevenage

MUSIC

Entrance: Elgar's Nimrod

Closing: Those in Peril on the Sea

Organist: John Rowlands

Hymns reproduced under CCL No 279050

Eileen and her family would like to thank everyone for their support and comfort at this sad time and would be most grateful if you would join them for refreshments after the service at The Rose and Crown, Ashwell

*Retiring collection to
St Mary's Ashwell*

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