

The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

A Funeral Mass  
in Thanksgiving for the Life of  
**Nigel Peter Woolliscroft**  
1955 - 2022



Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

10.15 am

## *Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church*

We gather here today to give thanks to God for the life of our dear friend Nigel Woolliscroft and pray for the repose of his immortal soul.

God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including Nigel's and our own, is precious to God. In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ over death. The proclamation of this truth is at the centre of the Church's life and is given full expression in this service.

Even those who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of Nigel's life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect. To acknowledge this at the beginning of the service should help us to use this occasion to express our faith and our feelings as we say farewell, to acknowledge our loss and our sorrow, and to reflect on our own mortality.

The Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end, nor does it break the bonds forged in life. Those who mourn need our support and consolation, and we surround Thelma and her family with our prayers. Our presence here today is part of that continuing care.

Today we affirm the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of saints. We ask for the prayers of countless others that those whose life on earth has now ended may by faith journey on to heaven, and participate in that perfect and unending life with God we hope, in the fullness of time, to share with them.

May Nigel rest in peace, and rise in glory.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

§ *Please stand when the bell is rung. The procession enters.*

### Hymn

*All*

**Love Divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, 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,  
Never more 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!**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Blaenwern  
William Rowlands (1860-1937)

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

*The service is introduced*

## A Tribute

§ *Please be seated*

*Given by Nigel Sittig*

## Poem

All is well

*Read by Emma and Daniel*

Death is nothing at all.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
I am I, and you are you,  
Whatever we were to each other,  
That, we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.  
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference into your tone.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed  
    at the little jokes that 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 an effect,  
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 absolute and unbroken continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible accident?  
Why should I be out of mind  
because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you,  
for an interval,  
somewhere very near,  
just round the corner.  
All is well.

*Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918)  
Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, London*

## Prayers of Penitence

§ *Please 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.

## 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.**

## Introit et Kyrie

Translation:

*Choir* Rest eternal grant them, Lord our God, we pray thee:  
and light perpetual forever shine on them.  
Thou, O God, art worshipped in holy Sion:  
unto thee the vow shall be performed in Jerusalem.  
Hear us, Lord; Lord, hear thy servants' prayer:  
Lord, unto thee all flesh shall come.  
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

## 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 Nigel, 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, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

§ *Please be seated*

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

*Reader* A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:3-9

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

§ *Please stand*

## Hymn

*All*                    **And did those feet in ancient time**  
                             **Walk upon England's mountains green?**  
**And was the holy Lamb of God**  
                             **On England's pleasant pastures seen?**  
**And did the countenance divine**  
                             **Shine forth upon our clouded hills?**  
**And was Jerusalem builded here**  
                             **Among these dark Satanic mills?**

**Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.**

Words: William Blake (1757-1827) Music: Charles Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

## Holy Gospel

### 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.'

John 6.35-40

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

# The Homily

§ *Please be seated*

*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

§ *Please kneel or sit*

*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 Nigel 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 Nigel 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 Nigel, 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 Nigel.  
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.**

§ *Please 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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please respect the needs of those who prefer to do so without physical contact*

## Hymn

*All* Alleluya, sing to Jesus!  
His the sceptre, his the throne;  
Alleluya, his the triumph,  
His the victory alone:  
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion  
Thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus, out of every nation,  
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluya, not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluya, he is near us,  
Faith believes, nor questions how;  
Though the cloud from sight received him,  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluya, Bread of Angels,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluya, here the sinful  
Flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluya, King eternal,  
Thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluya, born of Mary,  
Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
In the Eucharistic Feast.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Hyfrydol

Melody by Richard Huw Pritchard (1811-1887)

## 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 Nigel 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:

# Sanctus

Translation

*Choir* Holy, Lord God of hosts,  
the heavens and the earth are full of thy glory.  
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.

*All* Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**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 Nigel  
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*

§    *Please kneel or sit*

## The Lord's Prayer

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.**

## 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.

*Baptized persons who are communicant members of other Churches are warmly invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*The Blessed Sacrament is available in both kinds (bread and wine). If you prefer to receive the consecrated bread only, please feel free to do so.*

*Alternatively, if you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you as a sign.*

## Agnus Dei

Choir Translation:  
*Lamb of God,  
who takest away the sins of the world:  
O grant them rest for evermore.  
Hear us, hear us, O Lamb of God:  
we pray thee, Saviour of all the world,  
O grant them eternal rest.*

*Lamb of God, who takest away our sins,  
O grant them eternal rest;  
peace be with them evermore.  
Light perpetual shine upon them, Lord, we pray:  
with all thy saints in endless glory,  
for thy tender mercy's sake.*

*Rest eternal grant them, Lord our God,  
we pray to thee:  
and light perpetual forever shine on them.*

## Motet

Thou knowest, Lord the secrets of our hearts

*Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

## Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

*All* In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

*(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)*

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.

## Hymn

*All* **Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light;  
And where there's sadness, every joy.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

*O Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Words and music: Sebastian Temple (1927-1997)  
from a prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

*§ Please 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 Nigel, 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.**

## Poem

Remember me

*David Harkins (b. 1958)*

You can shed tears that he is gone  
Or you can smile because he has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.

Your heart can be empty because you cannot see him  
Or you can be full of the love that 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 him and only that he has gone  
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

## ¶ Final Commendation

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

## Invitation to Prayer

*Priest* Our brother Nigel 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.

*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.*

## 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 Nigel 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 Nigel 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.**

## Hymn

*All* **Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay:  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife,  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:  
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.***

Words: French, Edmund Budry (1854-1932)  
Trans Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)

Mus: Maccabaeus  
George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

## ¶ Sending Out

*All*      The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### Solemn Blessing

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

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

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

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

*All*      † 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.**

## Organ Voluntary

Prelude in E flat "St Anne", BWV 522i

*J S Bach (1685-1750)*

*The coffin is taken in procession from church*

## Donations

*If you would like to make a monetary donation in Nigel's memory you are invited to support the charities to which he was particularly committed.*

Wood Green Animal Shelters

The Royal British Legion

*Your gift may be placed in the receptacle provided for this purpose as you leave church, or sent directly to Thelma.*

## The Committal

*Worshippers are invited to join Nigel's family for the Committal at the Counties Crematorium, Milton Malsor NN4 9RN*

## The Reception

*Alternatively, you may wish to go directly to the reception at the Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road, Blisworth NN7 3DS*



**Please take this booklet home  
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,  
and then re-cycle it.**

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