

Parish of  
St Mary & St Michael  
Garstang

# Burial Liturgy



Betty Gregson

Monday 11 May 2020

# Words in Remembrance

Betty's early life was in Battersea, London. She had three siblings; Jack, Molly, and David. When World War II broke out, she and her sister spent the duration in Hascombe, some distance from Godalming, Surrey. The country location and the kindness of their carers left Betty with very happy and wartime teenage memories. Over the years that followed, Betty would return to her wartime home to see her adoptive "aunt & uncle".

After the war, Betty, her mother, sister and brother moved to Preston. There, she worked for a wholesale grocers and it was there that she and Bob, her husband-to-be, met. They married in 1952 and their only son, John, was born fourteen months later.

The family lived close to St Joseph's church, Preston, for almost twenty years. After this, they moved to Hoghton and ultimately to Penwortham, where they were parishioners of St Teresa's church.

John left home for university in 1973. Bob died in 2000. Following this, Betty's mental health gradually deteriorated to the point where, in 2009 her dementia necessitated admission to a care home. For most of that time she resided at Stanley Lodge, Forton. For the past two years she has been cared for in Pilling Nursing Home. Her only close relatives during those years have been John and his wife Julie, and Betty and Frank Carter, to whom she was very close. Sadly, for most of those years she was unable to recognise them. It is a consolation, however, that Betty never seemed unhappy; despite the dementia she often seemed positive and even lively, and the staff liked her a lot.

Betty's main interest had been her garden, two large azaleas from which are still flourishing in the garden of John and Julie, in Hexham. Another great delight for her were the many visits with Bob to join Betty and Frank at their cottage in the Lake District, where they all enjoyed many walks together. May she rest in peace. Amen.

# INTRODUCTORY RITES

After the sign of the cross, Fr Geoffrey greets all who have gathered.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

Fr Geoffrey sprinkles the coffin with water, saying:

In the waters of baptism  
Betty died with Christ and rose with him to new life.  
May she now share with Christ eternal glory.

After words of introduction, Fr Geoffrey says:

We believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit  
us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death.

Confident that God always remembers the good we have done  
and forgives our sins, in the silence of our hearts, for Betty let us  
pray, asking God to gather her to himself.

Pause for silent prayer.

Almighty God and Father,  
it is our certain faith  
that your Son, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of all who have fallen asleep.  
Grant that through this mystery  
your servant Betty, who has gone to her 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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## Psalm 23

The psalm is read in the *Authorised Version*, the translation with which Betty was raised.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for ever.

## Homily

Fr Geoffrey may speak briefly on the scripture, and on Christian death as a sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## Prayer over the Place of Committal

Fr Geoffrey prays over the grave.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
by your own three days in the tomb,  
you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you  
and so made the grave a sign of hope  
that promised resurrection  
even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that your servant Betty may sleep here in peace  
until you awaken her to glory,  
for you are the resurrection and the life.  
Then she will see you face to face  
and in your light will see light  
and know the splendour of God,  
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## Committal

During the committal the coffin is lowered.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we commend Betty to Almighty God,  
and we commit her body to the ground:  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless her and keep her,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon her,  
and be gracious to her,  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon her  
and grant her peace.

Pause for silence.

## Intercessions

Fr Geoffrey leads the prayers of intercession.

Dear friends, in reverence let us pray to God, the source of all mercies.

Gracious Lord, forgive the sins of those who have died in Christ.  
Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Remember all the good they have done.  
Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Welcome them into eternal life.  
Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who mourn:  
Lord, comfort them in their grief.  
Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Lighten their sense of loss with your presence.  
Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Increase their faith, and strengthen their hope.  
Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray also for ourselves, on our own pilgrimage through life.  
Lord, keep us faithful in your service.

Lord in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Fr Geoffrey introduces the Lord's Prayer, which all recite together.

Our true home is in heaven; let us pray to the heavenly Father as Jesus taught his disciples.

**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.**

## Concluding Prayer

Fr Geoffrey leads the concluding prayer of the liturgy.

Lord God,  
whose days are without end  
and whose mercies beyond counting,  
keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown.  
Let your spirit guide our days on earth  
in the ways of holiness and justice,  
that we may serve you  
in union with the whole Church,  
secure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.  
And when our earthly journey is ended,  
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,  
where you live for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer over the People

Bow your heads for God's blessing.

All pray silently.

Fr Geoffrey, with hand outstretched over the people, says:

Merciful Lord,  
you know the anguish of the sorrowful,  
you are attentive to the prayers of the humble.  
Hear your people  
who cry out to you in their need,  
and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Eternal rest grant unto Betty, O Lord.

**And let perpetual light shine upon her.**

May she rest in peace.

**Amen.**

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Amen.**

May the peace of God,  
which is beyond all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Go, in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**