



DOUGLAS MICHAEL FREE

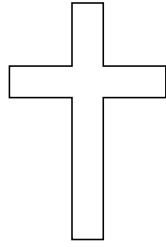
28th June 1949 to 18th February 2026

The Church of St Laurence, Affpuddle

Thursday 12th March 2026

At 2.30pm





Organ Music

Played by Peter Oakes

Welcome and Introduction

The Rev'd Lydia Reese
Curate of West Purbeck Benefice

Opening Prayer

The Rev'd Canon Ian Woodward
Former Rector of St Laurence, Affpuddle

Almighty God, you judge us with infinite mercy and justice,
And love everything that you have made.
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new
life,
And the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
Through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

A Reading from the New Testament

Read by Ingri Bergo Free

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13

Hymn

He who would valiant be 'Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy follow the Master.
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent,
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round with dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might, though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord thou dost defend us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.

Poem

Read by Ángel López-Silva

'So We'll Go No More a Roving'

So, we'll go no more a roving
So late into the night,
Though the heart be still as loving,
And the moon be still as bright.

For the sword outwears its sheath,
And the soul wears out the breast,
And the heart must pause to breathe,
And love itself have rest.

Though the night was made for loving,
And the day returns too soon,
Yet we'll go no more a roving
By the light of the moon.

By Lord Byron (1788-1824)

Tribute

Philomena Free

Guitar Solo

Buleria performed by Uri Tal

Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but though art mighty ,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer,
Be though still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's Destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

Tune – Cwm Rhondda





Poem

Read by Arabella Hogg

'Remember'

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Tribute

Alexander Free

Solo

Ave Maria, Schubert

Performed by Mary Chelu

Hymn

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 grace 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.

Tune – Blaenwern

Tribute

Christopher Geidt

Musical Tribute

I wish I knew how it would feel to be free, Nina Simone
Read by Isabella Free accompanied by Jonathan Neill

The Homily and Prayers

The Revd Canon Ian Woodward

God of mercy, Lord of life,
You have made us in your image to reflect your truth and light:

We give you thanks for Douglas,
For the grace and mercy he received from you,
For all that was so good in his life,
and especially for the memories we treasure today.

Lord In your mercy – **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, you promised eternal life to all who believe,
Remember for good this your servant Douglas

As we also remember him

Bring all who rest in Christ into the fullness of your kingdom
Where sins have been forgiven and death is no more

Lord in your mercy – **Hear our prayer**

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief
and life out of death

Look in mercy on Hatty, Philomena, Alexander, and Isabella
and all the family, and their many friends who knew Douglas so
well

Give them patient faith in times darkness and sadness
and strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Lord in your mercy – **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, you are tender towards your children

And your mercy is over all your works.

Heal the memories of hurt and failure.

Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright

The time that is left to us here on earth,

To turn to Christ and to follow in his steps

In the way that leads to everlasting life

Lord in your mercy – **Hear our Prayer**

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

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 those 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.

The Commendation

Let us commend Douglas to the Mercy of God our maker and redeemer.

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory
And claiming his promises,
Entrust Douglas to your mercy
In the name of Jesus our Lord,
Who died and is alive and reigns with you,
Now and forever **Amen**

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant Douglas depart in peace;
According to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou has prepared before the face of all people
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy
people Israel.
Glory be to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
World without end. **Amen**

In The Churchyard

We have entrusted our brother Douglas to God's mercy,
And we now commit his body to the ground,
Earth to earth, ashes to ashes and dust to dust:
In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our frail
bodies that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever.

May God give you his comfort and his peace,
His light and his joy, in this world and the next,
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**



*There will be a retiring collection in
memory of Douglas for Barnardo's.
Donations may be sent to
Albert Marsh Funeral Directors,
St Michaels Road, Wareham,
Dorset, BH20 4QU
or made online:
www.funeraldirector.co.uk/douglas-free*

*After this service, Hatty, Philomena,
Alexander and Isabella and all the
family warmly invite you for
refreshments in
Briantspuddle Village Hall.*



'And ever has it been known that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation.'
Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet



A GAELIC BLESSING

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again
May God keep you in the hollow of his hand.*