



**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the life of**



Leonard Arthur Evans

17 July 1929 – 9 July 2020



**St Matthew's Anglican Church
Cheltenham**

Friday 17 July 2020 at 10.30am

Officiant: The Rev'd Colleen Clayton

BEFORE THE SERVICE: 'Abide with me'

GATHERING:

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CANDLE:

We light a candle as we remember Len's family in the UK, present with us today in our thoughts, memories and prayers.

OPENING PRAYER:

We have gathered here today
to remember before God our brother Len Evans,
to give thanks for his life,
to commend him to God,
to commit his body to be cremated,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

We believe that those who die in Christ
Share eternal life with him.
So in faith and hope we turn to God,
Who created and sustains us all.

Let us pray.

Loving God,
You alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,
and fill us with compassion, one for another.
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: 'To God be the glory'

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice!

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God!
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

EULOGIES:

- Jane Ford
- Caitlin Thwaites

BIRTHDAY CARDS:

Today is Len's birthday. The congregation is invited to place cards for Len on his coffin.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 46.1-2 (Read by Lesley Boyd)

1. God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.

Romans 8.35, 37-39 (Read by Ivan Holt)

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 14.1-6 (Read by Lesley Boyd)

'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 if 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.'

THE HOMILY: The Rev'd Colleen Clayton

HYMN: 'All things bright and beautiful'

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

1. Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings,
Refrain
2. The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them high and lowly,
And ordered their estate.
Refrain
3. The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;-
Refrain
4. The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,-
He made them every one:
Refrain

5. He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Refrain

ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY PRAYERS: Warren Cole

Merciful God & Lord of life,
As members of the AMS we thank you
for the life and witness of our brother Len.

We pray that you will preserve among us the good of his example,
and will enable us, who you have called to service in the fellowship of your
church, so to live on earth that our comradeship may bring honour to your
name, and extend your kingdom in the hearts of all.

We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
Father of all Mercies and giver of all comfort,
deal graciously we pray you, with those who mourn,
that casting every care on you, they may know the consolation of your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF COMMENDATION: The Rev'd Andre Hassing

Trusting Len to God's care

Let us pray, as we trust Len to the love and mercy of God our Father.

Father of all mercy, you have called Len from this life.

Fulfill his faith and hope in you,
and lead him safely home to paradise,
that he may live in peace with you forever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In thanksgiving for Len's life

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image
to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for Len,
for the grace and mercy he received from you,
for all that was good in his life,
for the memories we treasure today.

Preserve among us, we pray,
the good of his example,
and guide us in the way of peace
until we come to your eternal kingdom;
though Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the bereaved

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved, especially Vivienne and Greg,
the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength
to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience;
not sorrowing as those without hope,
but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness,
and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

For ourselves and each other

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy
grant us safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at the last: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.**

COMMITAL:

Let us pray.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Len with your saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth we shall return. For so did you ordain when you created us, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Len with your saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend Len to Almighty God, and we commit his body to be cremated;
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
The Lord bless him and keep him,
the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace,
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING:

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
give honour to all;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, and those you love, now and always. **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant to Len, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon him.

May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory. **Amen.**

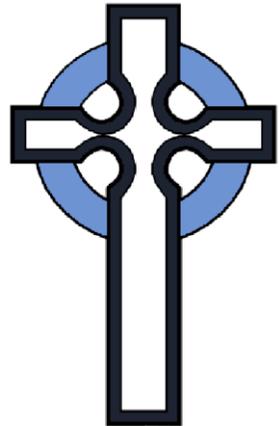
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PARTING:

Len's coffin is accompanied from the church by Greg and Caitlin Thwaites, with their children Taio and Ella.

HYMN: 'Amazing grace'

1. Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. As grace first taught my heart to fear,
so grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home..
4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.



If you would like to make a donation to St Matthew's in thanksgiving for the ministry of Len's life please contact the Parish Office on the details below.



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