

*A Funeral Service
To Celebrate the Life of
Gordon Athol Heffer*



14th August 1934 ~ 23rd April 2024



Tuesday 30th May 2024 | 10:00am

The Cathedral Church of St Alban the Martyr, Griffith



Gordon Heffer

Beloved husband of

Margaret

Loved father and father-in-law of

David & Leanne, Lloyd & Rozanne, Stuart & Karen, Sonia

Cherished Pa of

*Michael & Brooke, Jason & Erinn, Sally & Frankie, Amanda & Joe,
Steven & Helena, Tayla, Jorja*

Adored Great Pa of

Charlie, Judd, Kyle, Nate, Esther, Remi, Audrey, Tarquin, Isabella

Pall Bearers

David, Lloyd, Stuart, Michael, Jason, Steven

Celebrant

*The Very Rev'd Thomas Leslie
Dean of St Alban's Cathedral, Griffith*



ORDER OF SERVICE

*Throughout the service congregational responses are marked in **bold typeface**.*

Entrance Hymn:

Abide With Me

**1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**3. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears not bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Fr Thomas: Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Fr Thomas offers brief words of welcome and introduction.

St Paul writes, 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.'

Romans 8.38-9

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

**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.**

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Eulogy: Read by David, Lloyd and Stuart

Slideshow: a celebration of Gordon's life in pictures.

Music during the slideshow:

*Slim Dusty—'Looking Forward, Looking back'
and "I walked a Country Mile"*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Psalm 23, read by

*The Lord is my shepherd:
There is nothing I shall want.
He will make me to lie down in green pastures;
and lead me beside still waters*

*He will refresh my soul:
and lead me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: For you are with me,
your rod and staff, they comfort me.*

*You spread a table before me:
in the presence of all those who trouble me:
You have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup overflows.*



*Surely your goodness and loving kindness
will follow me all the days of my life:
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Second Reading: John 6.35-40, read by

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.'

Reflection: Fr Thomas.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of Gordon's life are read by Gordon's grandchildren.

*Response to each prayer: Lord, hear us, **Lord 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.
Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE FAREWELL

Please stand.

Let us entrust the soul of Gordon to the Love and Mercy of God.

The coffin is sprinkled with holy water, as a reaffirmation of the Resurrection promise made to each of us at Baptism.

Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and by your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.
We entrust Gordon to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again to save us,
and who now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit in glory forever. **Amen**

May he rest in Peace,
and rise in glory, Amen.

Please remain standing, as the coffin is taken from the Church.

Recessional 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. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and 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;
'tis grace hath 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've first begun!**

**5. 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.**

The service continues with final prayers at the Griffith Cemetery.











The Heffer family thank you and express their sincere appreciation for your support, friendship and kind words.

You are invited to join us at the Griffith Leagues Club for light refreshments and to share your memories of Gordon following the committal prayers at the Griffith lawn cemetery.



**Griffith Regional
Funeral Services**

Respect Integrity Compassion

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