A SONNET FOR ALL SAINTS
by Malcolm Guite

Though Satan breaks our dark glass into shards
Each shard still shines with Christ's reflected light,
It glances from the eyes, kindles the words
Of all his unknown saints. The dark is bright
With quiet lives and steady lights undimmed,
The witness of the ones we shunned and shamed.
Plain in our sight and far beyond our seeing,
He weaves them with us in the web of being,
They stand beside us even as we grieve,
The lone and left behind whom no-one claimed,
Unnumbered multitudes, he lifts above
The shadow of the gibbet and the grave,
The triumph where all saints are known and named;
The gathered glories of His wounded love.

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PAX
by D.H. Lawrence

All that matters is to be at one with the living God
to be a creature in the house of the God of Life.
Like a cat asleep on a chair
at peace, in peace
and at one with the master of the house,
with the mistress,
at home, at home in the house of the living,
sleeping on the hearth, and yawning before the fire.

Sleeping on the hearth of the living world
yawning at home before the fire of life
feeling the presence of the living God
like a great reassurance
a deep calm in the heart
a presence
as of the master sitting at the board
in his own and greater being,
in the house of life.

St Michael's Church Highworth

St Michael and All Angels Church Highworth

All Saints

A Service of Remembrance



An opportunity for those of us who grieve,
to remember together, those we still love.

Sunday 1st November 2026 at 10.15am
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WORDS OF HOPE

My soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness. *(Lamentations 3 : 20 - 23)*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever -present help in trouble.Therefore I will not fear. *(Psalm 46 : 1 -2)*

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. *(Psalm 23 : 4)*

Jesus said “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” *(John 11 : 25-26)*

Jesus said “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” *(John 16 : 33)*

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more. Death, thou shalt die.
(John Donne)

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BLESSING

May Christ the good shepherd
enfold you with love,
fill you with peace,
and lead you in hope
to the end of your days;
and the Blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen

If you would like to light a candle in memory of a loved one, please do so in the Warneford chapel, where the Memory Book is displayed, and there are some prayer resources.

Please help yourself to a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. And take this leaflet home to remind you of today's service.

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ said :
'Do not let your hearts be troubled, do not be afraid'
Take away our fear of death,
help us to trust all your promises,
and give us your peace, now and always. **Amen.**

A moment of quiet as we turn our thoughts to pray for others,
those near to us in our own community,
and others in a turbulent world. …

Gathering our prayers together, we pray as Jesus taught us :

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen

St Paul wrote : “I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *(Romans 8 : 38 – 39)*

HYMN **Love divine, all loves excelling.**

WELCOME

HYMN **For all the saints**

PRAYER
God of the living, not of the dead,
we praise you for saints of every time and place,
who have served you faithfully in their generation
and have enriched us by their lives and example.
Help us so to follow them that we may share in their joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Paschal candle is lit...
symbol of our faith in Jesus as light of the world.
Let us remember that Jesus is our risen Saviour who overcame death.
As we remember those we have loved but now no longer see, may God help us to trust him to find comfort in our sadness.

SAINTS? People like us?

Children leave for their groups.

CONFESSION
“Since we are surrounded by such a great crowd of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles” *(Hebrews 12 : 1)*

So let us confess our sins :
ALL Almighty God, we confess
that when we look at our lives,
we see mistakes we have made,
people we have hurt,
and things we have not done,
which have grieved you and caused us to regret.
In your love and mercy,
forgive us all that is past
and help us to live each day in the light of your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS :
May Almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.
Amen.

SONG **Be still and that I am God**

READING Revelation 7 : 9 – 17 - The great company of Heaven.

Comment - With all the worship of Heaven

RESPONSES
For calling us to be your people -
ALL We praise you, O God.

For all who have taught us and encouraged us -
ALL We praise you, O God.

For all who have guided us and been an example -
ALL We praise you, O God.

For all Christians who kept the faith in dark times -
ALL We praise you, O God.

For leaders of the Church today seeking to maintain unity -
ALL We praise you, O God.

May we play our part in the life of the Church -
ALL And know the joy of following Jesus Christ. Amen

READING John 14 : 1 – 6 & 27 - At home with God.

SERMON

POEM 'Pax' by D. H. Lawrence

HYMN **Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son!**

TIME TO REMEMBER ….

We give thanks for those we love, but now see no longer. As we listen to some music, we remember them and entrust them to God's eternal love.

The leaves with the names of our loved ones are collected and placed on the altar table by the cross – an empty cross to show that death is defeated, God's love prevails.

So we come to God in prayer :

All our stories, all our memories
We commit into God's hands.

All our laughter, all our sadness
We commit into God's hands.

All our anger, all our gladness
We commit into God's hands.

All those we remember today with love
We commit into God's hands.

God our Father, we thank you
that you have made each person uniquely different,
and each person is precious to you.
We thank you for our loved ones
from whom we are now separated by death.
We remember the years we shared with them,
the love we received from them,
and every precious memory
which can be a consolation in our grief.
Now give us strength and courage
to leave them in your care,
confident in your words of hope
and promise of eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**