

Theodore 'Alan' Richards

## OUTSIDE ALAN'S FLAT IN MICHAEL GARDENS

### WELCOME

We gather here today in these trying and difficult days to remember our brother-in-Christ, Theodore Alan Richards, who we all knew as Alan.

We are here to say our final farewells and to remember Alan before God our maker and redeemer.

### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Lord, we come into your presence to remember Alan and to seek your comfort, for we know that nothing can separate us from your love and that you support us in our sorrow.

We are sure that the souls of the righteous are with you and that nothing can harm them. Although they have died, they are in peace.

Give us your strength to rejoice that you have taken Alan to be with yourself where he shall no more be in need.

May we find life and peace and perfect joy with him in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PAUSE TO REMEMBER

Circumstances do not allow us to recall Alan's life today, but this we will be able to do when we celebrate and give thanks for his life in a memorial service for him in the, hopefully not too distant, future.

But for now, let us just pause to reflect for a moment on our shared lives with Alan, the highs, and the lows, the hopes and the frustrations and on how we would best like to remember him...

### BIBLE READING

#### *Psalm 23*

New International Version (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## PRAYERS

Let us pray...

Heavenly Father, you have not made us for darkness and death, but for life with you for ever.

God our Father, we thank you that you have made each of us in your own image and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you.

We thank you now for Alan and what he meant to each of us; the years we shared with him, the good we saw in him, the love we received from him, now give us strength and courage to leave him in your care.

As we honour his memory, make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life.

Almighty God, you love everything you have made and judge us with infinite mercy and justice.

We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace to all those who love you.

In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven.

Guide and prosper all who are engaged in medical research, especially those seeking to find a vaccine to protect us from the Covid-19 Coronavirus.

May they never lose heart in their search to discover treatments and preventative measures for this disease and many other medical conditions.

Grant that by their vision and courage we may advance in our understanding of the world and be better able to help those in need.

Lord, we pray for those who mourn, Fiona, Tim & Natalie, Alan's extended family, his neighbours and his friends, both near and far.

Be gentle with them in their grief. Show them the depths of your love, and a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven.

Father of all, by whose mercy and grace your saints remain in everlasting light and peace: we remember with thanksgiving those whom we love but see no longer; and we pray that in them your perfect will may be fulfilled.

Entrusting into your hands all that you have made and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people, we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

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## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have not made us for darkness and death, but for life with you for ever. Without you we have nothing to hope for; with you we have nothing to fear.

Speak to us now your words of eternal life.

Lift us from anxiety and guilt to the light and peace of your presence, and set the glory of your love before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CONCLUSION

And now to him who is able to keep us from falling, and lift us from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy; to him be power and authority, for ever and ever. Amen.

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## OUTSIDE ALL SAINTS CHURCH

### PRAYER

Alan has fallen asleep in the peace of Christ.

As we pause for a moment in this place, we remember the service that he gave to this church, as Churchwarden, PCC member, Crucifer and Server.

We thankfully remember his contribution to the life of this church and events and activities in the Hall, chiefly our Spring & Christmas fayres and All Saints Fellowship.

With our love and prayers, Alan now journeys on from this place with faith and hope in everlasting life, and to the love and mercy of our heavenly Father.

In baptism, Alan was made by adoption a child of God. At the eucharist he was sustained and fed.

God now welcomes him to his table in heaven to share in eternal life with all the saints.

God of all consolation, your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus his friend.

Look with compassion on your children in their loss; give to troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen in us the gift of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## AT THE CREMATORIUM

### MUSIC

*Trelawny*

Anthem of Cornwall

### COMMENDATION

Let us commend Alan 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, we entrust Alan to your mercy in the name of Jesus our Lord, who died and is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. Amen.

### COMMITTAL

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great goodness.

As a father is tender towards his children, so is the Lord tender to those that fear him. For he knows of what we are made; he remembers that we are but dust.

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Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; when the wind goes over it, it is gone and its place will know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever and ever toward those that fear him and his righteousness upon their children's children.

And so, having entrusted Alan to God's mercy, we now commit his body to be cremated, [**CLOSE CURTAINS**] earth to earth, ashes to ashes, 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. Amen.