

*St Mary's Church, Redbourn*



*Funeral and Thanksgiving  
for the Life of*

*Lois Jean Smith*

*R.I.P*

*19 May 1938 – 25 August 2022*

*Thursday 22nd September 2022*

*12 noon*

## **Joy**

Joy and woe are woven fine,  
A clothing for the soul divine;  
Under every grief and pine,  
Runs a joy with silken twine.  
It is right it should be so;  
Man was made for joy and woe;  
And when this we rightly know,  
Safely through the world we go.

*Auguries of Innocence – William Blake*

“..... The grief we have to live with is the final, and most costly, gift we have to offer to the one who has died.”

*Michael Mayne*

# The Funeral Service

## Opening Music

*Andante from Sinfonia Concertante, K364*  
*W. A. Mozart, arr. Thomas Chesterton*

*All stand*

## The Funeral Sentences

### Greeting

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.  
Grace and mercy be with you.

We have come here today  
to remember before God our dearly beloved Lois  
to give thanks for her life;  
to commend her to God our merciful redeemer and judge;  
to commit her body to be cremated,  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

*Words of Welcome and Introduction are offered*

### Opening Prayer

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.

*All Amen.*

## Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960)*

## The Collect

Merciful Father,  
hear our prayers and comfort us;  
renew our trust in your Son,  
whom you raised from the dead;  
strengthen our faith that all  
who have died in the love of Christ  
will share in his resurrection;  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.

*All Amen.*

*All sit*

## Poem

She is gone – David Harkins

*read by Lois's granddaughter, Annabel*

*You can shed tears that she is gone  
or you can smile because she has lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back  
or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
or you can be full of the love that you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.  
You can remember her and only that she is gone  
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind,  
be empty and turn your back;  
or you can do what she would want:  
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

## Family Tribute

*offered by Dave Smith*

## Hymn

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

*Psalm 23, Scottish Psalter, 1650*

*All sit*

**Reading**      The Bright Fields – R. S. Thomas

*read by Lesley Poulton*

*I have seen the sun break through  
to illuminate a small field  
for a while, and gone my way  
and forgotten it. But that was the  
pearl of great price, the one field that had  
treasure in it. I realise now  
that I must give all that I have  
to possess it. Life is not hurrying  
on to a receding future, nor hankering after  
an imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle  
of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth  
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

**Tribute**      *offered by Keith McAdam*

*All stand*

## Hymn

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

*Love Maria Willis (1824–1908)*

## Bible Reading

Revelation chapter 21 verses 1 to 7

*read by Sue May*

*At the end  
All*

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

*The Reverend Canon Will Gibbs*

## Music

*The Lark Ascending – Ralph Vaughan Williams*

## The Prayers

*After each section the minister says*

Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

*At the end we all say together*

**All God of mercy,  
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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so together we pray  
**All 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.**

## Anthem

*A Gaelic Blessing – John Rutter*

*Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you  
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you*

# The Commendation and Farewell

## Hymn

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'

*Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989)*

## Closing Prayers

*All*   **God be in my head, and in my understanding;**  
**God be in my eyes, and in my looking;**  
**God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;**  
**God be in my heart, and in my thinking;**  
**God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen.**

Support us, O Lord,  
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 a safe lodging,  
a holy rest, and peace at the last;  
through Christ our Lord.

*All*    **Amen.**

## **The Blessing**      *given by The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

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 us and remain with us always.

*All*    **Amen.**

## **Closing Music**      *Fugue in E flat, BWV 552 (“St Anne”) – J. S. Bach*



*There will be a retiring collection as you leave the service  
to support the work of Smile Train, a charity close to Lois's heart.*

*Online donations can also be made here:*

<https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notices/25-08-2022-lois-jean-smith/>

*You are warmly invited to stay and join us in the Transept at St Mary's,  
immediately after the service where lunch will be served.*

*The Committal will take place this afternoon at 3.30 pm at Harwood Park  
Crematorium, attended by Robin and Lois's family and close friends.*



