

Holy Innocents Fallowfield

Monday August 19th, 2024



This is the day when we say goodbye
to a person who has died,
we honour them, we pray for them,
we comfort and pray for those who are left,
We remember that in many ways, a person's life
is the sum of their human connections,
the lives they have touched or influenced,
the belief they have had in others
and the kindness and care
they have shown in their relationships.
Today, with his family and friends about him,
in a familiar place of worship,
four priests gather to help bid farewell to a brother priest.
We surround him with the symbols of his faith and ours
and hold him in prayer.

The presiding priest today is the Revd Richard Young and the preacher is the Revd Canon Alma Servant. Other parts of the service are led by the Revd Bill Raines, and the Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth.

The choir of Holy Innocents is led by Sian Davies, and the organist is Richard McHale. Hymns are not announced.

The Funeral of Peter Vowles 19th June, 1925 – 9th August, 2024

Welcome to Holy Innocents.

Please be still and silent as we wait for the service to begin, holding Peter and his family in our prayers. As the coffin arrives at the door of the church, the sentences of scripture are read:

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me
shall never die.

We brought nothing into this world,
and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away;
blessed be the name of the Lord

Remember not the sins and offences of my youth:
but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord,
for thy goodness.

I know that my redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand on the latter day,
upon the earth;
and though worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead
- the first fruits of them that sleep."



*Please stand as the procession enters the church.
The Revd Richard Young introduces the service:*

We have come here today to remember before God
our dear friend Peter
to give thanks for his life;
to commend him to God our merciful redeemer and judge;
to commit his body to be cremated,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

Please join in:

**Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one is here
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear -
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground,
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the holy one, is here**
**Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned;
How awesome is the sight – our radiant king of light!
Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**
**Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal to minister his grace;
No work to hard for him – in faith receive from him -
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

*At the end of the hymn please sit down. Psalm 67 is said
antiphonally led by the Revd Bill Raines:*

God be merciful unto us, and bless us;
and cause his face to shine upon us;
**That thy way may be known upon earth,
thy saving health among all nations.**
Let the people praise thee, O God;
let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:
**for thou shalt judge the people righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.**
Let the people praise thee, O God;
let all the people praise thee.
Then shall the earth yield her increase;
and God, even our own God, shall bless us.
**God shall bless us;
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.**

The Tribute: from Peter's son Simon

Then please stand to sing a favourite Charles Wesley hymn.

**O thou who camest from above,
the fire celestial to impart:
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.**
**There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze;
and trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**
**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.**
**Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.**

The Lesson:

John 14.1-8 is read by Anna Vowles

Let not your heart be troubled:
you believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions:
if it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again, and receive you unto myself;
that where I am, there ye may be also.
And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."
Thomas saith unto him,
"Lord, we know not whither thou goest;
and how can we know the way?"
Jesus saith unto him,
I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.
If ye had known me,
ye should have known my Father also:
and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.
Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father,
and it sufficeth us.

At the end:

Thanks be to God.

The Address:

The Revd Canon Alma Servant

After the address there is a short time of silence.

This is followed by the prayers.

Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All say together:

**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.**

The choir sings:

Enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord;
for in thy sight shall no one living be justified.
Grant unto him eternal rest;
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
We believe verily
to see the goodness of the Lord;
in the land of the living.
O Lord, hear our prayer;
and let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray:

After a moment of silent prayer, the Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth leads the Collect:

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the resurrection and the life;
in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though they die;
and whosoever liveth, and believeth in him,
shall not die eternally;
who also hath taught us, by his holy Apostle Saint Paul,
not to be sorry, as those without hope,
for them that sleep in him:
We meekly beseech thee, O Father,
to raise us from the death of sin
unto the life of righteousness;
that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him,
as our hope is this our brother doth;
and that, at the general resurrection in the last day,
we may be found acceptable in thy sight;
and receive that blessing,
which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce
to all that love and fear thee, saying,
'Come, ye blessed children of my Father,
receive the kingdom prepared for you
from the beginning of the world.'
Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

After a moment of silence:

O Father of all, we pray to thee for those whom we love,
but see no longer.
Grant them thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them;
and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power
work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Short prayers of intercession follow. Between each section:

Lord hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end:

Holy God, **holy and strong, holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Please stand to sing:

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.**

Please remain standing for the Commendation.

*As the coffin is sprinkled with holy water,
the Collect of Easter Eve is said:*

Grant, O Lord, that as we who are baptized into the death
of thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
so by continually mortifying our corrupt affections
we may be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;
for his merits, who died and was buried
and rose again for us,
thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us commend Peter to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.
May our farewell express our affection for him,
may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope.
One day we shall joyfully greet him again,
when the love of Christ which conquers all things,
destroys even death itself.

Then the president leads the farewell and blessing

Peter, may the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs come to welcome you
and take you to the holy city,
the new and eternal Jerusalem.
May choirs of angels welcome you
and lead you to eternal rest.

Amen.

May God the Father bring us to the home
which his Son prepares for all who love him.

Amen.

May God the Son
give us the will to live for him each day in life eternal.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit
give us the assurance that our citizenship is in heaven
with the blessed and beloved,
and the whole company of the redeemed.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

*As the coffin is lifted to leave the church,
the Nunc Dimittis is sung:*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

*The presiding priest accompanies the family to Manchester
Crematorium for the final prayers of committal.*

At the Crematorium

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.
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.

We have entrusted Peter to God's mercy,
and we now commit his body to be cremated:
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.

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 you and remain with you always.

Amen.

God will show us the path of life;
in his presence is the fullness of joy:
and at his right hand
there is pleasure for evermore.



Peter John Henry Vowles, MBE,
born Bristol, 19th June 1925
– died Manchester, 9th August 2024.
In manus tuas, Domine.

And into that gate they shall enter,
and in that house they shall dwell,
where there shall be no cloud nor sun,
no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light,
no noise nor silence, but one equal music,
no foes nor friends,
but one equal communion and identity,
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity
John Donne



Donations in memory of Peter may be made to
OASIS Gorton:

This is the link to the Just Giving page and QR
code and website link.

<https://checkout.justgiving.com/c/223275>

[Homepage • The Oasis Centre \(oasisgorton.org\)](https://www.oasisgorton.org)



*Peter's family invite all attending today
to join them to raise a glass in his memory
at the Metropolitan, 2 Lapwing Lane,
West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2WS
From 2.30pm.*

