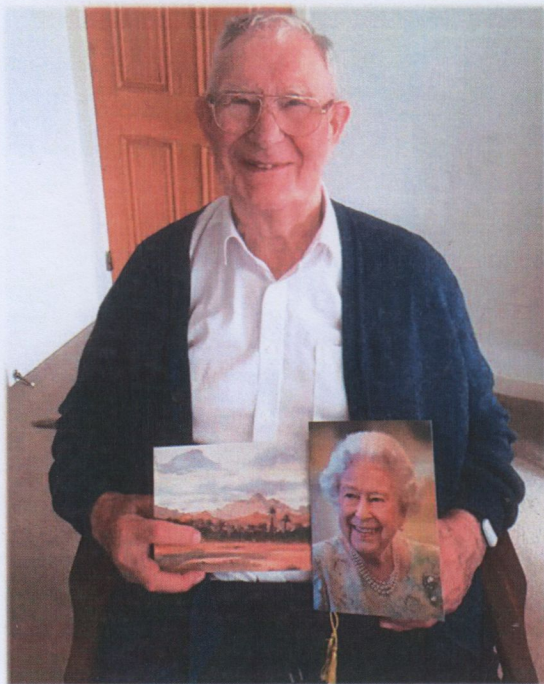


St Andrew's Church, Shrivenham

Friday 8th March 2024 at 2:00pm

A Service of Thanksgiving in Celebration of the Life of



Ronald Owen Johnson 'Ron'

9th October 1921 - 16th November, 2023

*His Majesty the King is represented by
His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir John Lorimer
KCB DSO MBE*

of Service

Reverend Norma Fergusson



*An excerpt from Last Words, the battle for Arnhem Bridge,
will be played to mark the start of the service*

Music on Entry

'Memories' by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Sung by Elaine Paige

Welcome and Opening Prayers

including The Airborne Forces Collect

read by Chris Willmott

May the defence of the Most High be above and beneath,
around and within us, in our going out and in our coming in,
in our rising up and in our going down, through all our days and all
nights, until the dawn when the Sun of Righteousness shall rise with
healing in his wings for the peoples of the world, through
Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hymn

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 till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
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,
I will ever give to thee.

Family Memories

shared by Valerie Sanders

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.

Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Reading

'I wandered lonely as a cloud' by William Wordsworth
read by Clare Ayoub

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought.

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Words from Arnhem

shared by Frans Ammerlaan

Music for Reflection

'I vow to thee, my country'
sung by The Benefice Choir

Hymn

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and him who reigns,
with them in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Memories

shared by Titus Mills

Hymn

There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiv'n,
he died to make us good;
that we might go at last to heav'n,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heav'n, and let us in.

O, dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood
and try his works to do.

Bible Reading

1 Corinthians 13: 4-12 & Romans 8: 38, 39
read by Valerie Sanders

1 Corinthians 13: 4-12

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Romans 8: 38, 39

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.

Address

by Reverend Norma Fergusson

Prayers, concluding with 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.
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.

Music for Reflection with a Photo Tribute

'Abide with me'
Katherine Jenkins

Reading

'A Life Well Lived'
read by Paul Sanders

A life well lived is a precious gift
of hope and strength and grace,
from someone who has made our world
a brighter, better place.
It's filled with moments, sweet and sad;
with smiles and sometimes tears.
With friendships formed and good times shared
and laughter through the years.
A life well lived is a legacy
of joy and pride and pleasure,
a living, lasting memory
our grateful hearts will treasure.

Blessing

Closing Music

'The Blue Danube'
Johann Strauss

**The bells of St Andrew's Tower will be rung at the end of the service
in tribute to the amazing life of a remarkable, and much loved,
member of the congregation.**



Thank you for coming to the service today and for your many cards,
flowers and words of sympathy since Ron died.

You are invited to the Memorial Hall after the service to continue
to remember and celebrate Ron's life.

If you would like to make donations in Ron's memory,
these will be shared between

St Andrew's Church
&
Taxi Charity for Military Veterans

An offertory plate and card reader will be available at the
back of the church as you leave.

