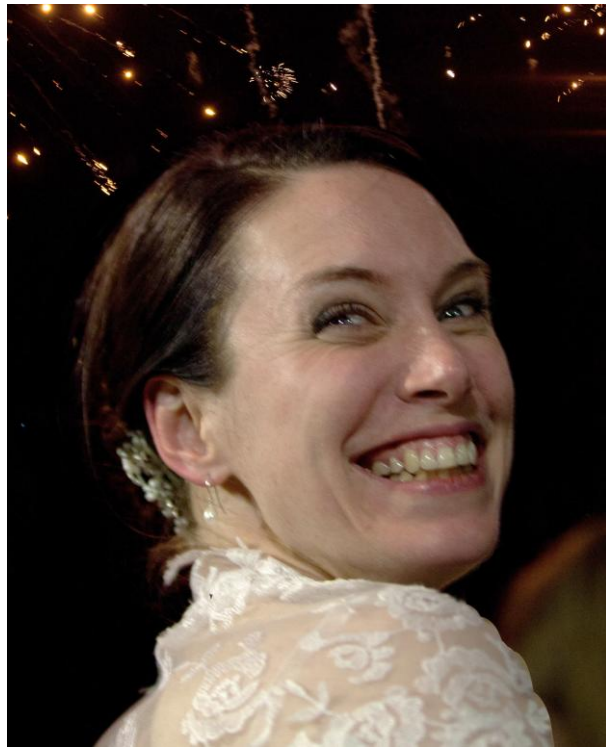


FUNERAL SERVICE
FOR
MELANIE FORD M.B.E



27TH SEPTEMBER 1981 – 11TH APRIL 2025

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY 2025

11.00AM

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING MUSIC

NIMROD *from* ENIGMA VARIATIONS

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

THE SENTENCES

Please stand as the procession enters. The minister recites sentences from Scripture as the coffin is brought into the Cathedral.

WELCOME

The Reverend Canon Nigel Ashworth, Cathedral Priest Vicar

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

All **And also with you.**

We have come here today
to remember before God our sister Melanie;
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.

OPENING PRAYER

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

In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The Reverend Lizzi Green

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.**

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 no ill:
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
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.

NEH 459

Psalm 23

Scottish Psalter (1650)

Crimond

Melody by Jessie Irvine (1836-1887)

Harmony by T. C. L. Pritchard (1885-1960)

Please sit.

READINGS

PROVERBS 31: 10, 25-31

Read by Tracey Murray

A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
'Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.'
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Honour her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

1 CORINTHIANS 13: 1-13

Read by Nick Ford

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

TRIBUTES

*Given by Sue Jackson, Andii Gosling, Ann Macaulay,
Amanda Teasel and Ned Ford*

THE ADDRESS

Given by The Reverend Lizzi Green

Please stand.

SONG

**Out of my window, looking in the night,
I can see the barges flickering light.
Silently flows the river to the sea
and the barges too go silently.**

*Barges, I would like to go with you,
I would like to sail the ocean blue.
Barges, have you treasures in your hold?
Do you fight with pirates brave and bold?*

**One of these days, and it will not be long
you will look for me and I'll be gone.
Face to the wind, far out upon the sea
where the whales and dolphins sing to me.**

Barges, I would like to go with you...

How my heart longs to sail away with you
as you sail across the ocean blue.
But I must sit beside my window dear
and watch you sail away from here.

Barges, I would like to go with you...

Author unknown

THE PRAYERS

Led by The Reverend Canon Nigel Ashworth

Please sit or kneel. The Prayers conclude with The Lord's Prayer:

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.**

Please stand.

HYMN

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, 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 our 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 life 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 heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

NEH 408

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Blaenwern

William Rowlands (1860-1937)

THE COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Please remain standing. The Reverend Lizzi Green says

Let us commend Melanie to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

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 Melanie to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive and reigns with you,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

SONG

**Day is done, gone the sun,
from the lake, from the hills, from the sky;
all is well, safely rest, God is nigh.**

Traditional, arr. Dennis Frayne

THE BLESSING

The Reverend Canon Nigel Ashworth says

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.**

May God give us
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.

All **Amen.**

Please remain standing as the procession departs.

CLOSING MUSIC

FUGUE IN D MINOR

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

AFTER THE SERVICE

The Committal will take place at
The Oaks Crematorium, Havant

Donations can be made to
The Mel Ford Leadership Fund
<http://campfire.waggs.org/page/mel-ford-fund>

St. Wilfrid's Hospice
<http://stwh.co.uk/donate>

Please do join us after the service at

Hollybank House
Hollybank Lane
Emsworth
PO10 7UN