



Christopher Oritshetigbimi Harriman

10 September, 1956 – 17 January, 2025

“Say not in grief ‘he is no more’, but in thankfulness, that he was...”

In loving memory of **Christopher Oritshetigbimi Harriman**, who departed this life on January 17, 2025. The eldest son of the late Ambassador Leslie Harriman (OFR) and the late Mrs. Clara Taiwo Harriman (*nee Edewor*) was born on September 10, 1956, in Lagos, Nigeria.

Christopher's journey began in Lagos, then moved to Ghana and Kenya, where he attended Nairobi Primary School before developing a passion for collecting stamps and comic books between 1967 and 1970. His educational pursuits led him to Canford School in England, where he excelled in athletics, setting records in high jump and earning a call-up as a hockey goalkeeper for England. He furthered his studies at New York University, graduating with a BSc in Economics, while also embracing Taekwondo, culminating in his championship win at the Black Belt Heavyweight All American Open Karate Championships at Madison Square Garden.



Christopher's academic journey continued at St. John's University, where he earned an MBA in Economics. His professional career was marked by versatility; he lectured during the day and worked as a bouncer at iconic nightclubs in New York City by night. Upon returning to Nigeria in 1982, he brought with him a wealth of experience, having worked in various roles across Africa and the UK.



Throughout his career, Christopher held significant positions, including Senior Operations Manager at Wayne West Africa, where he oversaw operations and client relationships, and as a contractor for the Lagos State Government, managing various public projects. His tenure as Senior Sales Manager at Cheseborough Ponds involved meeting sales targets and fostering relationships with clients and distributors.

Since relocating to the UK in early 2018, Christopher gained valuable experience in physical roles within warehouse environments and retail security. His commitment to continuous improvement led him to pursue IT training, as he sought to engage with people in customer service or team-oriented settings. Christopher's dedication to his work was evident in his roles, including as a Retail Security Guard at One Below, where he built solid relationships with staff and customers alike, and at Amazon Logistics, where he excelled in a physically demanding environment.

Outside of his professional life, Christopher was an avid fitness enthusiast, achieving a Black Belt in Taekwondo and participating in tournaments. He enjoyed reading, staying updated on current affairs, and engaging in sports and research, always striving for personal growth.



Chris with his wife Ayo, and sons, David and Phil



Chris with his mother, Late Clara Taiwo Harriman and his siblings.

Chris with family members



With a strong foundation in interpersonal skills and fluency in English and conversational French, Christopher was known for his exceptional communication abilities and his calm, friendly demeanour. His dedication extended to caring for his autistic brother, showcasing his gentle and compassionate nature.

Christopher lived a life enriched with kindness and genuine affection, leaving an unforgettable legacy for all who were fortunate enough to know him. His radiant smile and warm disposition touched countless hearts, and his absence will be profoundly felt by those who cherished him.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Christopher is survived by his beloved wife, Ayo Harriman, and his two sons, David and Philip Harriman. He also leaves behind his siblings, Michael, Tony, Josephine, and Leslie Harriman, who will hold dear the memories they created together. While the void of his departure is significant, we find comfort in the inspiration he instilled in all of us through his remarkable life.



Christopher Harriman's spirit will forever resonate in the hearts of those who knew him, and his legacy of kindness and dedication will continue to inspire future generations.



May he rest in eternal peace.

ORDER OF SERVICE

During the Entrance Procession

Hymn No.1 Abide With Me

1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
4. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies; heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee: in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Welcome – Fr Ako

Eulogy: Philip Harriman (Son), Anthony Harriman (Brother)

First Reading – David Harriman (Son)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3: 1–11)

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Responsorial Psalm: no. 23, Read Version Response

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. The Lord's my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me to revive my drooping spirit.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil, my cup is overflowing.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Hymn No 2: Morning Has Broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Second Reading - Josephine Harriman (Sister)

A reading from St. Paul's Second letter to Timothy (4: 6 – 8)

As for me, my life is already being poured away as an offering, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now, is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14: 1–6)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. If there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to where I am going". Thomas said, "Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said "I am the way the Truth and the Life, no-one can come to the Father except through me."

Homily – Fr. Ako

Bidding Prayers

Chris was a friend, husband, father, brother, cousin and uncle.

He loved life and had a special way of connecting with his creator.

As we grieve his passing, may we remember the treasured memories we shared.

We thank God for his life and pray that God will continue to guide us in ours.

Lord hear us.

Offertory

Hymn No. 3 All That I Am.

1. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you. Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.
2. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you
3. All that I dream, all that I pray, all that I'll ever make, I give to you today.
4. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

During the distribution of Holy Communion

Hymn No. 4 Make Me A Channel of Your Peace .

1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord. And where there's doubt true faith in you.
2. Make me a channel of your peace, Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.
3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul.
4. Make me a channel of your peace, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving to all that we receive, and dying that we're born to eternal life.

Hymn No. 5 How Great Thou Art.

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hand hast made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee, How great thou art, how great thou art (x2)
2. 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.
3. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart; then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim; my God how great thou art.

Final prayer and committal liturgy

Hymn No. 6 Amazing Grace

(Before the procession begins)

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believe.

(During the procession)

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. 6. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease, I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

From the Harriman Family

We would like to thank you for attending today and all the kind messages of sympathy we received at this sad time. Chris had a very good sense of humour and a kind heart. We have no doubt that he is resting in peace and wish to share this poem:

**Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.**