

# Professor Howard Anthony Bird

20<sup>th</sup> June 1945 - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Friday 19th February 2021 at 2pm  
St. Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate

# **The funeral service is conducted by The Reverend John Bird**

**Organ music - Prelude to Lohengrin by Wagner**

**Entry of the coffin during which the sentences are recited**

## **Russian Contakion of the departed – sung by John Dunford**

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy Saints:  
Where sorrow and pain are no more;  
Neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only are immortal, the Creator and Maker of man:  
And we are mortal, formed of the earth,  
And unto earth shall we return:

For so thou didst ordain, when thou createdst me, saying.  
Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.  
All we go down to the dust;  
And weeping o'er the grave, we make our song:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy Saints:  
Where sorrow and pain are no more;  
Neither sighing, but life everlasting.

## **Opening prayer**

### **Commemorations**

Dr Stewart Kilpatrick (Queens' alumnus, and Howard and Anne's best man)  
Professor Philip Helliwell (Leeds University)  
Dr Hara Trouli (UCL)  
Oliver Bird

## **Lacrymosa (from Eternal Light) – sung by John Dunford**

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 softly falling snow.

I am the gentle showers of rain,  
I am the fields of ripening grain.  
I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush  
Of far-off birds in circling flight.  
I am the starshine of the night.

*Lacrymosa, dies illa 0 That day will be one of weeping*

I am in every flower that blooms  
I am in still and empty rooms.  
I am the child that yearns to sing,  
I am in each lovely thing.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there - I did not die.

*Poem - Mary Elizabeth Frye  
Music - Howard Goodall*

## **Reading**

### **Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-8 – read by Dr Anne Bird**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God  
And there shall no torment touch them

In the sight of the unwise they seem to die  
And their departure is taken for misery  
But they are in peace

For though they be punished in the sight of men  
Yet is their hope full of immortality  
For God hath proved them and found them worthy of himself

And in the day of visitation they shall shine  
They shall judge the nations and have dominion over the people

And their God shall reign for ever

## **Reading**

### **Revelation 21:1-4 – read by His Honour Shaun Spencer QC**

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:  
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;  
and there was no more sea.

And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,  
coming down from God out of heaven,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,  
“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,  
and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,  
and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;  
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying,  
neither shall there be any more pain:  
for the former things are passed away.”

### **The Call (No.4 of Five Mystical Songs) – sung by John Dunford**

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way as gives us breath;  
Such a Truth as ends all strife,  
Such Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light as shows a feast,  
Such a Feast as mends in length,  
Such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy as none can move,  
Such a Love as none can part,  
Such a Heart as joys in love.

*Words - George Herbert*

*Music - Ralph Vaughan Williams*

## **Prayers**

## **Commendation**

## **Psalm 23 – during which the sprinkling and censing of the coffin take place**

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 in 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 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 forevermore  
My dwelling-place shall be.

*Music - Bob Chilcott*

## **Committal**

## **Blessing**

## **Procession out**

## **Organ music - Overture to Tannhauser by Wagner**

The family would like to thank:

The Reverend John Bird - retired vicar of Doncaster  
Minster, Howard's third cousin, and Caroline's godfather

John Dunford - baritone

Tim Gray - organ

St. Wilfrid's Church - for enabling us to live-stream the  
service

The funeral will be followed by a private cremation and  
Howard will be laid to rest in the garden of remembrance  
at St. Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate.

Donations directly to Pancreatic Cancer UK or through  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ProfBird](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ProfBird)

