

Henry W Allingham



Entered: June Sixth of Eighteen Ninety Six
Departed: July Eighteenth of Two Thousand Nine

The Parish Church of St NICHOLAS' of MYRA, BRIGHTON
30th July 2009 at Noon

11.45 The Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex and The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Brighton & Hove, are welcomed to the church by The Reverend Robert Chavner, Vicar of Brighton, St Nicholas of Myra.

11.50 Arrival of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of the World War One Veterans' Association.

A quarter peal of Grandsire Caters will be rung, half muffled, by local bell ringers and Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Guild of Ringers.

The coffin will be borne by a joint Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Bearer party.

Henry Allingham's medals and decorations are borne by his great grandsons, Petty Officer 2nd Class Brent Gray, United States Navy, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Gray, United States Navy.

The Sentences will be read by Fr Robert Chavner as the coffin, accompanied by the Medal Bearer, immediate family and representative organisations, moves from the hearse into Church.

Please stand as the procession enters

ORDER OF SERVICE

SENTENCES

Jesus said: I am the resurrection, and I am the life; he who believes in me, though he die yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11. 25-26

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his compassion never fails: every morning they are renewed.

Lamentations 3. 22-23

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5.4

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3.16

I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 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.

Romans 8.38-39

Eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2.9

We believe that Jesus died and rose again; and so it will be for those who died as Christians; God will bring them to life with Jesus. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4. 14,18

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run,
And not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Introduction and Welcome

The Vicar says

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

We have come here today to remember before God our brother Henry; 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.

Let us pray

God of all consolation,
your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears
at the grave of Lazarus his friend.
Look with compassion on your children in their loss;
give to troubled hearts the light of hope
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

**Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven!
To his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!**

**Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows!**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!**

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 15. 20-26, 35-38, 42-44

*Read by Robert Leader,
Chief Executive of St Dunstan's*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

Stand

HYMN:

**Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.**

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

**Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?**

Soar we now where Christ has led,
foll'wing our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
praise to thee by both be giv'n;
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

Sit

SECOND READING: 'Distant Fields', Poem,

*Read by Amy Carlson,
Henry's great granddaughter*

DISTANT FIELDS

I touched his hand and his touched mine
And silently he touched my mind

I looked into his telling eyes
But couldn't hear the silent cries...

...Of men that passed so long ago
In distant fields, in rain and snow

They knew not how or when or where
But all knew what they stood for there

The friends they lost, the sights they saw
The muddled minds with nerves so raw

His furrowed hands, with wrinkles worn
Weaving trenches, from smoothness torn...

So frail, so thin, yet firm and strong
Like those before amongst the throng.....

...Of men that passed so long ago
In distant fields, in rain and snow

As sight and hearing fade away
His senses live in another day

When sounds were etched upon the mind
and sights could not be left behind

The memories that churn around
Of friends and colleagues never found...

...Of men that passed so long ago
In distant fields, in rain and snow

But now the time has come to go
To leave behind the world below

And meet again with comrades lost
Who lost their lives at such great cost

To laugh and joke and share some time
With those cut down within their prime

He touched my hand, they touched my mind
And many of you now left behind

So remember them, who gave their lives
and left their children and their wives...

Remember those for us who fought
And don't forget to spare a thought

...for men that passed so long ago
In distant fields, in rain and snow

Attributed to Lieutenant Commander John Scivier Royal Navy

TRIBUTE

David Gray, *Henry's Grandson*
Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns KCB CBE
Air-Vice Marshal Peter J Dye OBE

ADDRESS

The Reverend Martin Morgan, Chaplain St Dunstan's

Stand

HYMN

**Eternal Father, strong to save
whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Christ, whose voice the waters heard,
and hushed their raging at Thy word,
who walkedst on the foaming deep,
and calm amidst the storm didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
for those in peril on the sea.**

**O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace,
Who fills with strength the human race;
Inspire mankind to know the right,
Guide all who dare the eagle's flight;
And underneath thy wings of care
Guard all in peril in the air.**

**O Trinity of love and power,
our brethren shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go:
thus evermore shall rise to Thee
glad hymns of praise from air and sea.**

After W Whiting (1825-78) alt.

Sit or Kneel

THE PRAYERS: Led by Fr Robert Chavner

Let us pray in confidence to God our Father, who raised Christ his Son from the dead for the salvation of all people. Grant Lord that your son Henry will know the fullness of life, which you have promised to those who love you.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life and gave to our brother Henry his span of years and gifts of character.

God our Father, we thank you now for all his life,
for every memory of love and joy,
for every good deed done by him and every sadness he shared with us.
We thank you for all of Henry's life and for his death and for the rest in Christ that he now enjoys.
We thank you most of all for giving Henry to us,
and for the glory we shall one day share together in the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Nathaniel Gray, Great grandson

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: Hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mr Dennis Goodwin -

Chairman of World War I Veterans' Association and close friend

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces: Grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Vicar continues

Lord, have mercy upon us

ALL: Christ, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us

Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Enter not into judgment with thy servant O Lord

For in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Grant unto him eternal rest;

And let light perpetual shine upon him.

We believe 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.

Lord Jesus Christ God of all compassion, whose own heart was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus, be close to Henry's family and friends in their loss. Strengthen in them the gift of faith, and give to their troubled hearts the light of hope, that they may live as one day to be united again, where tears shall be wiped away, in the kingdom of your love; for you died and were raised to life with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God now and for ever. **Amen**

O Lord support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shades 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 safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God of mercy, entrusting into your hands all that you have made and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people, we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Stand

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 and 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 earth and heaven adore,
for this is was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

M Rickart (1586-1649)

Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

Please remain standing

THE COMMENDATION AND THE COMMITTAL

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

Heavenly Father, by your mighty power you gave us life, and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus. We entrust Henry Allingham to your merciful keeping, in the faith of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who died and rose again to save us, and is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. **Amen**

We commend unto thy hands of mercy, most merciful Father, the soul of this our brother departed, and we commit his body to be consumed by fire, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. And we beseech thine infinite goodness to give us grace to live in thy fear and love and to die in thy favour, that when the judgement shall come which thou hast committed to thy well-beloved Son, both this our brother and we may be found acceptable in thy sight.

Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.

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.**

The bearers prepare to leave the church whilst the choir sings the hymn Holy Holy Lord God Almighty.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS: *The Vicar leads the congregation in the saying of the Nunc Dimittis;*

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.

All guests are requested to remain standing in their positions until directed by the stewards to move into the churchyard.

In the churchyard, on the path, the procession will stop.

- *The bugler sounds the Last Post.*
- *There will be one minute's silence followed by Reveille.*
- *The bell will toll (113) times.*

*Immediately after the service, the Vicar will accompany Henry's coffin
to the Crematorium*

*Henry's family would like to offer their sincere thanks for all loving
thoughts, cards and kind messages of sympathy received during their
sad loss. Donations given in Henry's memory for the Dark Horse
Venture or St Dunstan's should be sent to Attree and
Kent Funeral Directors,
2 Hollingbury Place, Brighton. BN1 7GE*

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In Henry's Own Words

“A new interest was sparked one Sunday afternoon when I was riding my pedal bike in the countryside near Chingford, Essex, near a reservoir. I heard a droning noise and looked up to see a plane circling the aerodrome. It was a captivating sight. Fascinated, I sat down on the grass verge to watch the aircraft. I decided that was for me so I vowed to apply to join the Royal Naval Air Service.”

“Crash Landings were common. Once I was returning from a patrol with pilot Major Ebert Cadbury. Everything looked all right as we were coming down but as we touched the ground the nose dipped. We lost half the undercarriage and the plane ended up half buried in the ground. Major Cadbury and I scrambled out quickly. I heard a torrent of expletives from the Major that I’d never heard before or since.”

“I have always said that it was the men in the trenches that suffered; it was the men in the trenches who in my view won the war. So I don’t think I deserve all this attention. Other men did so much more than me. We owe them so much – they sacrificed their future so that we all might have one, I firmly believe that.”

“With me I carried a Bible given to me by Dorothy; it was a translation of the Old and New Testaments. On the flyleaf she wrote: “May the Lord watch between thee and me while we are absent from one another.” The inscription was dated 19 September 1917. She placed pressed flowers between the pages, which, like me, have survived these 90 years.”

“People ask me, what’s the secret of a long life? I don’t know. People ask me how I’ve done it and I just say that I look forward to another tomorrow.”